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THE TIMES

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25 1989

Richmond jolt raises fears among Tories Triumphant Owen rejects approach by Ashdown

● A narrow victory for the Conservative candidate in the Richmond by-election yesterday jolted the Government

● The SLD leader Mr Paddy Ashdown reacted immediately by calling for talks with Dr Owen, who rejected the plea

● Dr David Owen's SDP dramatically revived its political fortunes when its candidate finished a close second

● A decisive victory for Labour at Pontypridd provided further evidence that the party is staging a recovery

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

A collapse in the Conservative vote at the Richmond by-election severely jolted the Government and raised ministerial fears that it is about to sink into the traditional mid-term trough of unpopularity. It was the SDP candidate who finished a close second, putting Dr David Owen and his formerly

fragile party back on the political map. The result, declared yesterday afternoon, was a blow to the chosen strategy of Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Democrats' leader. He reacted by calling for talks between the two party leaders — a call which Dr Owen is rejecting. Dr Owen said: "A stunning result for the SDP. It shows

19,576 cut to just 2,644 by a late surge for the SDP candidate Mr Mike Potter, a local farmer. Protests from disgruntled farmers, mortgage holders and small businessmen worried about inflation and interest rates and from opponents of water privatization nearly saw the Conservatives ousted in one of the safest seats in the country, formerly held by Sir Leon Brittan.

It was the biggest drop in the Conservative share of the vote since 1979.

Mr Ashdown has been insisting that what he calls "the breakaway SDP" has no future in politics except as a band of spoilers capable of denying by-election victories to the larger former Alliance party which he leads.

Mr Ashdown's strategy of seeking to bury the SDP and refusing to consider pacts and deals with Dr Owen is now under severe strain and is likely to be questioned by some of his MPs.

Dr Owen has been calling for deals over which party fights which by-election but Mr Ashdown has refused.

After yesterday's result the Conservatives will be hoping that the two parties fighting for the centre ground of British politics continue to dispute that territory.

Senior Labour figures meanwhile were intrigued at Dr Owen's revival after he had openly flirted with the Labour Party.

They are beginning to see a role for Dr Owen who has the capacity, in some future deal with Labour, to confer an added respectability on their new policy approach.

RICHMOND	
William Hague (C)	19,543
Michael Potter (SDP)	16,909
Barbara Pearce (SLD)	11,589
Frank Robinson (Lab)	2,581
Dr Robert Upsall (Green)	1,473
Lord David Sutch (Loony)	167
Anthony Mills (University)	118
Lord St Oliver (Conservative)	108
Nicholas Watkins (Off Lib)	70
Conservative majority	2,834
Total vote	Turnout 63%

1987: 1: British (C) 34,985; D Lloyd-Williams (L/Ali) 15,419; F Roberts (Lab) 6,737. Majority: 18,576

Swing: 9.53% from C to SLD

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that sticking with your beliefs

pay off in British politics.

Meanwhile the Pontypridd

by-election, the results of

which were declared in the

early hours of yesterday morning,

provided further evidence

of a recovery for Labour,

whose candidate Mr Kim

Howells held off a challenge

from the Welsh nationalists

who pushed the Conservatives

into third place.

At Richmond 27-year-old

Mr William Hague became

the second youngest MP in the

Commons. But he saw the

Conservative majority of

New worry of rise in base rates

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

Worries about a further rise in Britain's base rates have increased, after an increase in American interest rates yesterday. They could have to be raised to 14 per cent before the Budget to support the pound. The Bank of England again stepped in to support sterling yesterday, after the Federal Reserve Board lifted the US discount rate from 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent.

Rates rise fear, page 17

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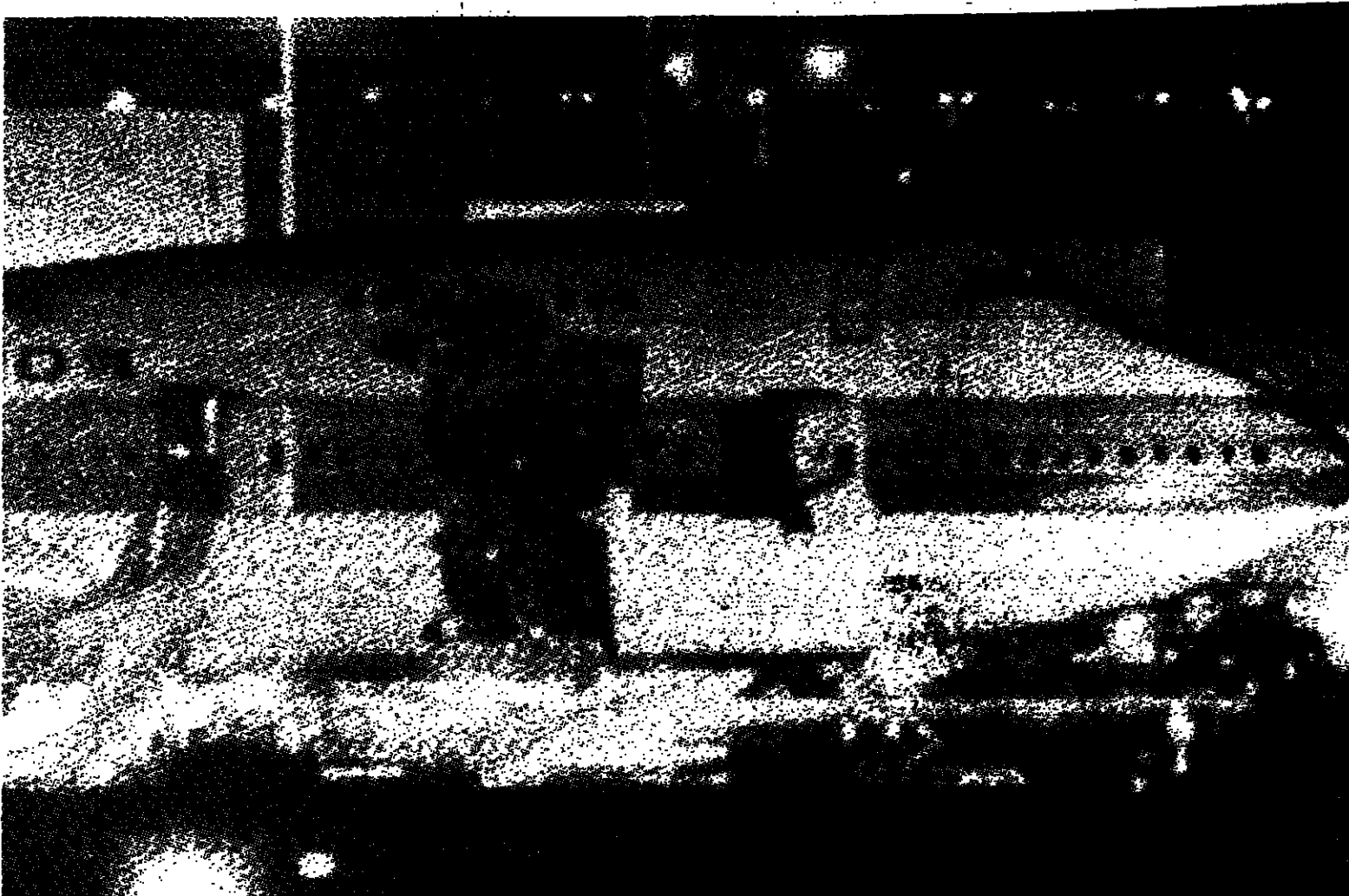
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Passengers tell of jumbo jet 'ripping apart'



The crippled United Airlines Boeing 747 standing at Honolulu Airport last night, the gaping hole ripped in its fuselage clearly visible.

11 pulled to death through hole in Boeing 747 over the Pacific

By Harvey Elliott in London and Charles Bremner in New York

Eleven passengers were sucked to their death high over the Pacific yesterday when a hole appeared in the side of a United Airlines Boeing 747 around the front cargo door.

The aircraft, which was delivered to United in 1970, had taken off from Honolulu on its way to Auckland, New Zealand, carrying 336 passengers and 15 crew, when the pilot reported a loss of power in the inboard starboard engine.

At the same time passengers heard the sound of the aircraft "ripping apart" and three or four rows of people were "blown out of the aircraft".

The pilot managed to bring the aircraft back into land at Honolulu and the passengers were evacuated down emergency slides. Experts who dashed to the scene immediately began examining the area which has torn away and trying to decide whether the cargo door had come away and ripped upwards on its hinges, spraying debris into the engine.

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A spokesman for the FAA in Honolulu said the pilot reported an explosion and that he was losing power in one starboard engine nine minutes after take off. Eight minutes later power failed on the second starboard turbine. Experts said it appeared that parts of the fuselage had damaged the engine.

Investigators for the FBI and National Transportation Safety Board questioned passengers and started studying the damaged aircraft. A spokesman said it was too early to determine a cause but the news media immediately focused on the eerie similarity to the incident in which a smaller Boeing 737 lost its roof over Hawaii last April 28.

That plane, an elderly model belonging to Aloha Airlines, suffered decompression as it was climbing through 24,000 ft. One stewardess was sucked out and passengers were seriously injured but the pilot managed to land. The FAA blamed cracks in the old aircraft and ordered strict new inspection rules.

and dazed passengers lay on blankets on the floor. Others went to telephones to contact families. United Airlines, which is based in Chicago and has one of the best safety records in the world, could not say yet whether any Britons had been among the injured or dead passengers.

Local officials said the pilot's first emergency call reported a "possible bomb explosion" together with the engine failure.

A passenger, Mrs Rochelle Perel of Beverly Hills, said she was sitting next to seats that were blown away. "There was a kind of a hissing sound, like air and then a tearing away of the plane. It did not sound like an explosion."

Hirohito's subdued farewell

From Joe Joseph
Tokyo

A frantic diplomatic timetable and Washington politics competed for attention here yesterday as a chilly rain and mixed passions escorted the coffin of Emperor Hirohito to its final resting place in a drab dormitory suburb in western Tokyo.

Ceremony protests.....7
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Tokyo.

The gathering swelled into the biggest state funeral of modern times, but it was a subdued coda for a man who for 62 years symbolized his nation in peace, war and prosperity, and who, since his death on January 7 at the age

Continued on page 16, col 4

Bush vows to back Tower despite vote

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Bush announced in Tokyo yesterday that he would continue to back Senator John Tower despite the devastating political defeat of his nominee as Defence Secretary by the Senate armed services committee.

Mr Bush said he had not considered anyone else for the job, and would try to persuade senators to confirm Mr Tower when a full vote is held next week. "I do not believe he is going down the drain. I hope the debate will clear up any questions about him," he said.

Mr John Sununu, the White House Chief of Staff, telephoned Mr Tower to assure him of the President's support. Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said there was no mention of Mr Tower's withdrawal; the

nominee knew it was a difficult fight.

The almost unprecedented rejection of a senior Cabinet nominee came after two months of increasingly acrimonious debate over Mr Tower's personal life, drinking and business connections. After another three-hour

Bush damaged.....7
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secret session on Thursday, the Senate committee voted by 11-9 to recommend the rejection of Mr Tower.

Mr Bush is being urged to pick a new nominee. Two being canvassed are Mr Donald Rumsfeld, Defence Secretary in 1975, and Mr Norman Augustine, of Martin Marietta.

10 killed in Bombay protest over Rushdie

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi, and Nicholas Beeston

Ten people died in the crowded streets of Bombay yesterday as police opened fire on a mob of yelling Muslim demonstrators calling for Britain to ban the publication of Salman Rushdie's book *The Satanic Verses* and to cease protecting the author.

The mob, assembled by Muslim organizations which told them their religion was endangered by the book, took to the narrow streets of a Muslim quarter, and turned violent when they were told to disperse.

Police retaliated with tear-gas and baton charges, but the

mob fought back, setting ablaze several shops and vehicles. Eventually, police opened fire. Thirty-five people were injured.

Meanwhile, Foreign Office

Hurd at mosque.....12

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sources confirmed that the

Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, had attempted to

enlist the support of his Soviet

counterpart, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, to deliver a message

to the Iranian leader Ayatollah

Khomeini in Tehran this

weekend.

'Dolly' de Rothschild leaves £92m will

By David Sapsted



Mrs de Rothschild: Money for charities in Israel.

Mrs Dorothy "Dolly" de Rothschild, the banking family matriarch who died in December, has left more than £92.8 million net in what is believed to be the largest estate ever certified in England.

The National Trust is among the beneficiaries and £20 million is earmarked for a trust established by Mrs de Rothschild four years ago.

The will, published yesterday, leaves an estate valued at £94,117,964 gross, much of it destined for charities in Israel. The will also appoints an undisclosed amount left in her husband's will.

After the death in 1957 of her husband James, son of the head of the French House of

Rothschild, Mrs de Rothschild handed over their chateau-style home, Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury, to the National Trust, along with its priceless art collection.

Mrs de Rothschild, who was 93, did not detail the bequests made in her 26-page will. Mr Hugh Henshaw, her solicitor, yesterday said: "The will has a large number of beneficiaries, including individuals and charities."

He said Mr Jacob Rothschild, chairman of Charterhouse J Rothschild and himself a beneficiary, would become responsible for money earmarked for charities, particularly the National Trust and those in Israel. He will

also be responsible for Mrs de Rothschild's two estates in Buckinghamshire.

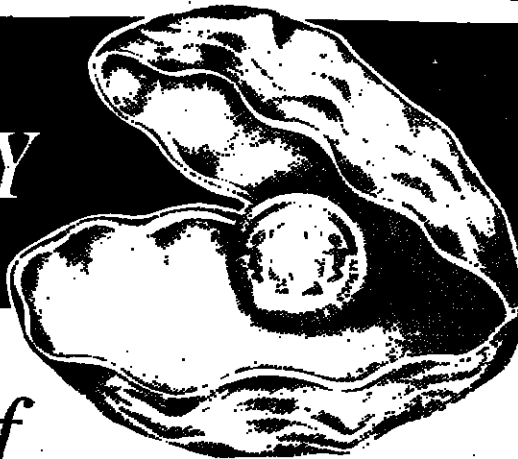
Much of the money is expected to go to the Hanadiv Foundation, established by Mrs de Rothschild and her husband. The charity has already provided the means for the construction of the Knesset, Israel's parliament, and the new Supreme Court under construction in Jerusalem.

The charity is also heavily involved in various educational and social projects in Israel.

Mrs de Rothschild was involved in charitable work in London's East End and served as a magistrate in Buckinghamshire for nearly 40 years.

Other wills, page 12

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Protest votes trigger dramatic swings in Conservative and Labour heartlands

Middle parties slash Tory lead at Richmond

The dramatic fall in the Conservative share of the vote in the Richmond by-election is worse than in any by-election since Mrs Thatcher came to power.

The only occasions during the 1983-87 Parliament when the Conservative share of the vote dropped more than 20 per cent were at Brecon and Radnor in 1986, and at Greenwich in 1987. In both cases the seats were lost to the former Alliance parties.

In the 1979-83 Parliament, the Conservative share fell by more than 20 per cent only when Roy Jenkins fought Warrington in the first contest for the SDP.

At Richmond, the SDP and Social and Liberal Democrats took an astonishing 54.1 per cent of the vote between them, an advance of 27.1 per cent on the showing by the Alliance candidate at the last election and a sign of the public's eagerness to find a suitable receptacle for protest votes to give the Government a shock.

The evidence that protest is the name of the game is that in Pontypridd the same day, the candidates from the two former Alliance parties both lost their deposits. There Labour was the established party and Plaid Cymru became identified as the obvious challengers, moving up from fourth place to second and

PONTYPRIDD	
Kim Howells (Lab)	26,649
Syd Morgan (PC)	9,755
Nigel Evans (C)	5,212
Tom Ellis (SLD)	1,500
Terry Thomas (SDP)	1,199
David Richards (Comm)	239
David Black (Ind)	57
Labour majority	10,794
Total vote	38,511
Turnout	62%

1987: B T John (Lab) 26,422; D Swaine (C) 9,145; P G Sain-Lay-Berry (SDP/All) 8,865; D L Bowen (PC) 2,498. Majority: 17,277.

increasing their share of the vote from 5.3 per cent to 25.3 per cent.

Though Labour did well at Pontypridd, the party's vote in Richmond was always likely to be squeezed by a party better able to threaten the Tories, and the loss of deposit for the able Labour candidate Frank Robson came as no surprise.

At Pontypridd, the share of the vote, with general election figures in brackets, was Labour 53.4 (56.3), Plaid Cymru 25.3 (5.3), Conservatives 13.5 (19.5), Democrats 3.9 and SDP 3.1 (Alliance 18.9).

Although it is argued that if Labour were really closing the gap nationally—as recent opinion polls have suggested—the party should have

CHANGE IN PARTY VOTING SHARES					
Change in share of the vote at by-elections since 1983					
Date	By-election	Con	Lab	All	Result
1979-83	Parliament				
24.2.83	Bermondsey	-19.4	-37.5	+50.9	All Gain
24.3.83	Darlington	-8.5	-5.0	+14.3	Lab Hold
1983-87	Parliament				
28.7.83	Pennith & Borders	-12.8	-5.9	+16.7	Con hold
1.3.84	Chesterfield	-17.3	-1.6	+15.2	Lab hold
3.5.84	Surrey SW	-10.4	-1.5	+11.3	Con hold
3.5.84	Stafford	-10.8	+3.7	+7.1	Con hold
3.5.84	Cynon Valley	-6.8	+2.8	-0.7	Lab hold
14.6.84	Portsmouth S	-15.7	+3.9	+12.2	SDP gain
13.12.84	Southgate	-8.5	-5.9	+12.2	Con hold
4.7.85	Brecon & Radnor	-20.5	+9.3	+11.4	Lab gain
6.12.85	Tyne Bridge	-14.2	+1.3	+11.4	Lab hold
10.4.86	Fulham	-11.3	+10.4	+0.6	Lab gain
8.5.86	Ryedale	-17.9	-1.9	+19.8	Lab gain
8.5.86	Derbyshire West	-16.3	+2.7	+12.3	Con hold
17.7.86	Newcastle u Lyme	-17.4	-1.2	+17.7	Lab hold
13.11.86	Knowsley N	-13.8	-8.2	+19.8	Lab hold
28.2.87	Greenwich	-23.7	-4.4	+27.8	SDP gain
12.3.87	Troo	-6.6	+2.5	+3.1	Lab hold

Date	By-election	Con	Lab	SDP/SLD	Other
1987-Parliament					
14.7.88	Kensington	-5.9	+4.9	-1.4	-
10.11.88	Govan	-4.6	-	-8.2+38.4	-
				SNP	
15.12.88	Epping Forest	-21.5	+0.4	+18.8	-
23.2.89	Pontypridd	-8.0	-2.9	-11.9+20.0	PC
23.2.89	Richmond-24.1	-6.9	+27.1	-	-

the nationalists on the move. The nightmare of Govan, where the Scottish nationalists overturned Labour's 19,000 majority in November, had put the party on the defensive in a seat it had held for 66

years, and Labour fought it as if it were a marginal.

In the seats Labour defended in the last Parliament, the result, in share of the vote terms was: Chesterfield -1.6, Cynon Valley +2.8, Tyne

Bridge +1.3, Newcastle-under-Lyme -1.2, Knowsley North -8.2 and Greenwich -4.4. The party's 2.9 per cent drop in share of the vote at Pontypridd therefore is nothing out of the ordinary.

At Richmond, the party shares were: Conservatives 37.1 per cent (61.2); SDP 32.1 per cent and Social and Liberal Democrats 22.0 per cent (Alliance 27.0); and Labour 4.9 per cent (11.8). The remarkable thing is that the SDP share alone exceeded what the joint parties of the Alliance achieved at the general election.

Attention will now focus on the by-election due in another Welsh seat, the Vale of Glamorgan, following the death of former Conservative MP Sir Raymond Gower. On the face of it, Labour's task there should be simple. Recent national polls have put the party within range of the 6.2 per cent swing it requires to capture a Tory seat only for the second time since 1979. The party will be hoping to squeeze the vote of the former Alliance parties, and the constituency is one in which it will be hard for the nationalists to make an impact.



Home and dry: Mr William Hague, celebrating winning Richmond for the Conservatives

NEWS ROUNDUP

School governors to be reinstated

Two Conservative school governors dismissed by the Labour-controlled Inner London Education Authority are to be reinstated. The Court of Appeal has ruled that they were unlawfully removed after refusing to follow Labour Party policy.

Mr John Hunt, Conservative MP for Ravensbourne, Kent, and Mrs Margaret Brunyate, vice-chairman of the governors of the Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Schools, were removed by Ilea after they had voted in favour of turning the two schools, one boys and one girls, into a City Technology College.

Mr Christopher Bostock, chairman of the governors, said he expected parents to vote on the proposal in the summer term. The reinstatement of the two governors means that there is now a majority in favour of the CTC.

An Ilea spokesman said the authority would consider an appeal to the Lords. "It is vital that we get a quick decision. Hundreds of schools could be affected by it," he said.

'Loyalist' arms find

Substantial "loyalist" arms caches were discovered by police and troops yesterday in a day-long search operation which embraced a large part of the 20-mile long Ards peninsula, a mainly Protestant rural area of Co Down. The Royal Ulster Constabulary would not say if there were any arrests. Home-made machine-guns, rifles, pistols, grenades and ammunition, are understood to have been found. The grenades are thought to be of the type supplied by Libya to both republican and loyalist terrorists in 1987.

Inkstand export deal

The George II inkstand, which fetched a record £770,000 at Christie's last December, looks destined to go abroad, after the speedy processing of an export licence by the Reviewing Committee for the Export of Works of Art. Made by the craftsman Paul de Lamerie, its provenance is enhanced by the fact that it was once owned by Robert Walpole and bears his crest and motto. Mr Tims Kendall, of Spink, said it was sold to a Swiss-based collector. The price, he said, is substantially more than that paid at Christie's.

Poor response to 1992

Scottish businesses have been criticized for doing "too little too late" in the run-up to the single European market. Speaking in Edinburgh yesterday, Mr Bruce Millan, European Commissioner, said Scottish businesses had to prepare themselves for 1992. Mr Millan described as "not encouraging" the results of a survey which found 44 per cent of the businesses which replied had done nothing to prepare for the single market. Only 26 per cent were aware to a significant extent of European competitors.

Theatre library plea

Richard Briers, Susannah York, Simon Callow and Brian Cox were among the theatre personalities who called at No 10 Downing Street yesterday with a plea to save the British Theatre Association Library. The letter they handed in had 50 signatures, including Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Jonathan Miller, Glenda Jackson and Tom Stoppard and was a last-ditch attempt to prevent the 70-year-old association, which has the world's largest collection of plays, disappearing at the end of next month unless £150,000 a year can be found.

Eight held over blast

Eight people were being questioned by police last night after a series of dawn raids in the Bristol area in connection with the bomb blast that destroyed part of the Senate House at the city's university. Animal rights activists had claimed responsibility. Forensic scientists were yesterday sifting through the debris and collecting evidence on the construction of the 5 lb bomb which exploded on Wednesday night.

RUC's new chief looks ahead to 'bed of nails'

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Reporter

The new Irish-born chief constable of the RUC yesterday accepted he could face a "real bed of nails" as he committed himself to leading the Ulster force for at least five years.

But Mr Hugh Annesley, at present the Scotland Yard assistant commissioner in charge of London's special

detective forces, told a press conference in Co Antrim: "I will continue to deal with all those I come into contact with in a fair manner, irrespective of colour, race, creed or code."

He will lead a force facing the repercussions of the Stalker/Sampson report on allegations of a shoot-to-kill policy, budgeting problems, management stagnation and past difficulties with both

Roman Catholic and Protestant communities.

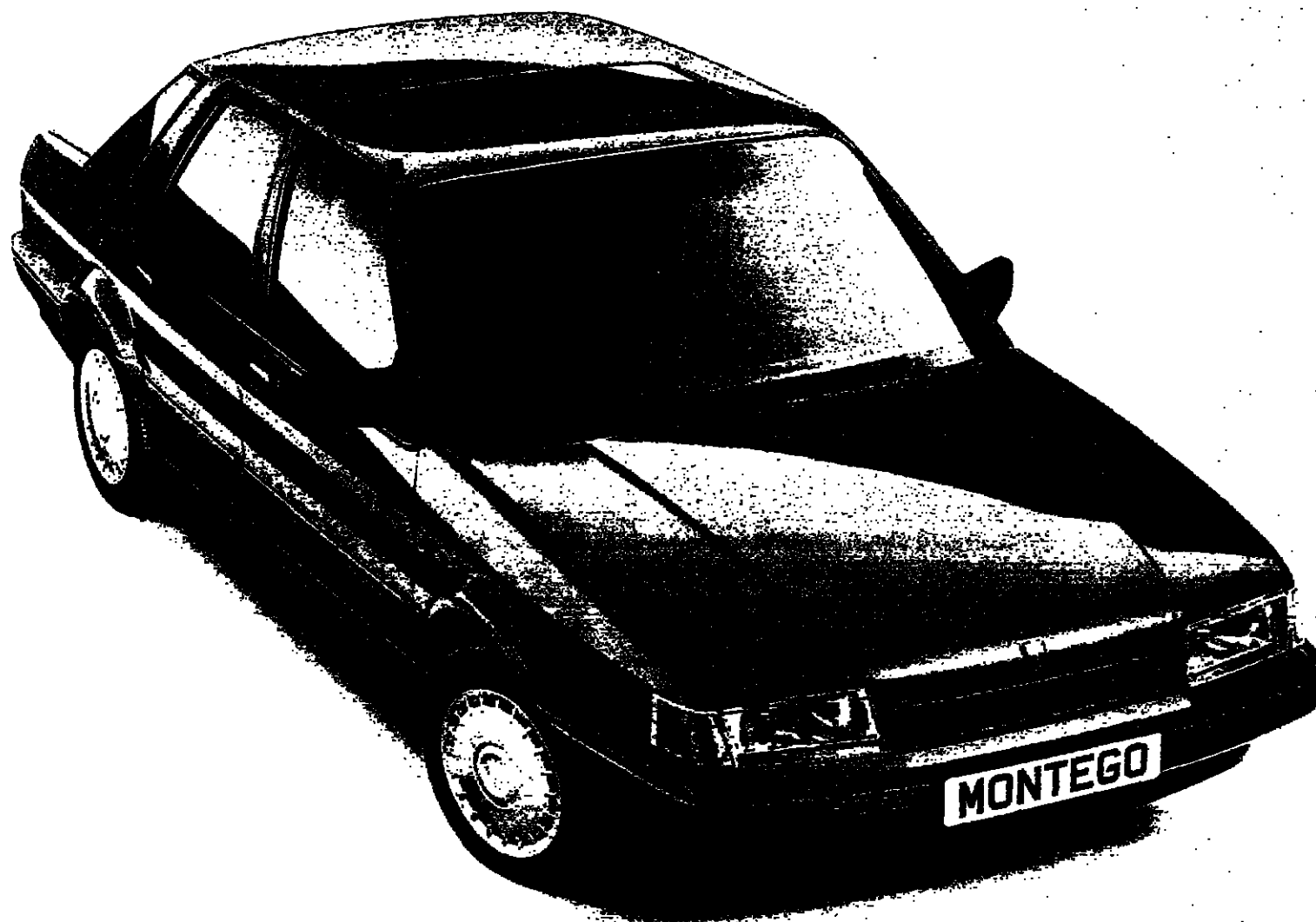
Yesterday Mr Annesley, who will command more than 8,000 full-time officers and a sizeable reserve, would not comment on the

Sampson/Stalker report.

Asked about nationalist support for the RUC, he said: "I think the support of any sizeable group within any community is essential to accurate and effective policing in a democracy."

Mr Annesley, who takes over the £57,000 a year post from Sir John Harman this summer, said his first task would be to listen and learn.

Continuing cross-border co-operation was absolutely essential, he said.



The new Cavalier won't be along for a second or so.

For 1989, the Montego 1.6L has a restyled front. And for Cavalier drivers (left behind by the 0-62 mph acceleration)* it has a restyled rear.

What's more there are 185/65 low-profile tyres and a new five-speed gearbox.

Inside we have redesigned the centre console

and included sports front seats with their own adjustable lumbar support.

We have added a four-speaker stereo radio/cassette with Autostore. Which, to dissuade thieves from a quick getaway with the car's sound system, is security coded.

And of course, a slide and tilt sunroof comes as standard. As does tinted glass. All ample grounds, we feel, to contest Vauxhall's cavalier claims.

They might call the Cavalier the car of the future.

But the Montego's

ahead of its time.

MONTEGO 1.6L

*0-62 mph acceleration: Montego 1.6L 12.5 sec, 1.8L 11.5 sec, 2.0L 10.5 sec, 2.3L 9.5 sec, 2.6L 8.5 sec, 2.8L 8.0 sec, 3.0L 7.5 sec, 3.5L 7.0 sec, 4.0L 6.5 sec, 4.6L 6.0 sec, 5.0L 5.5 sec, 5.5L 5.0 sec, 6.0L 4.5 sec, 6.5L 4.0 sec, 7.0L 3.5 sec, 7.5L 3.0 sec, 8.0L 2.5 sec, 8.5L 2.0 sec, 9.0L 1.5 sec, 9.5L 1.0 sec, 10.0L 0.5 sec. Vauxhall Cavalier 1.6L 13.5 sec, 1.8L 12.5 sec, 2.0L 11.5 sec, 2.3L 10.5 sec, 2.6L 9.5 sec, 2.8L 8.5 sec, 3.0L 7.5 sec, 3.5L 7.0 sec, 4.0L 6.5 sec, 4.6L 6.0 sec, 5.0L 5.5 sec, 5.5L 5.0 sec, 6.0L 4.5 sec, 6.5L 4.0 sec, 7.0L 3.5 sec, 7.5L 3.0 sec, 8.0L 2.5 sec, 8.5L 2.0 sec, 9.0L 1.5 sec, 9.5L 1.0 sec, 10.0L 0.5 sec.

Shotgun raiders fire on PC after robbery at millionaire's home

By Mark Soester

Armed robbers fired a sawn-off shotgun at a chasing policeman yesterday after a £20,000 raid by a four-man gang on the home of an Asian millionaire in Nottingham.

Police Constable Carl Handford had singlehandedly confronted two members of the gang after the robbery in which Mr. Nat Puri and his wife, Devi, were trapped and gagged at gunpoint and bundled into a cupboard.

Last year Mr. Puri set up a £1 million charitable trust in gratitude to Britain 20 years after arriving as a penniless student from India.

The gang ransacked his house and stole £20,000 in cash and other goods worth a further £10,000 and fled in his two cars. The couple escaped and raised the alarm an hour later. One of their cars, a Jaguar, was abandoned at Goddard three miles away, but the other, a red Mercedes, was

pursued by police in a chase along the M1.

PC Handford cornered two of the gang when the Mercedes crashed into garages in a cul-de-sac in Loughborough 15 miles away. As he approached them the raiders fired at him with a sawn-off shotgun and the blast hit his patrol car. PC Handford then reversed his car to block off the cul-de-sac and the men were forced to flee on foot.

Police sealed off the area and searched 24 houses throughout the night, but the men escaped.

Det. Chief Supt Bob Wood of Nottingham police, said yesterday that PC Handford saw the Mercedes driving towards the M1 at junction 24 near Kegworth, south of Nottingham. "He took up the chase at speeds up to 120 mph", Mr. Wood said.

"When they crashed he displayed the typical courage

of a police officer acting alone."

Mr. Puri's ordeal began late on Thursday when three of the masked raiders burst into the couple's home at Mapperley, Nottingham.

Detectives last night widened their search for the gang, described by a senior officer as "very dangerous" to roads and houses near Loughborough University.

As more than 50 officers carried out house-to-house inquiries in the area, Det. Supt John Wallace, of Leicester police, warned the public to be on their guard. Both men are described as white, aged 25-30 and 5ft 8in to 5ft 10in. One is said to be slim, while his accomplice is stocky.

Mr. Puri said yesterday: "It was a terrifying experience. I am still shaken and my wife is very distressed."

Mr. Puri, aged 49, epitomized Mrs. Thatcher's Britain since he arrived in England in 1966 as an engineering student.

Within nine years he started his own engineering consultancy which became the Melton Meades Group, today the company has worldwide sales of £100 million and employs 3,400 worldwide, and 2,800 in Britain.

Mr. Puri is Nottingham chairman of the Prince of Wales Trust. In July last year he put up £1 million to fund the Puri Foundation which provides for the needy and makes donations to schools and hospitals.

Last August the Government rejected his takeover bid for the North East Shipbuilders in Sunderland.

Victory for struck-off midwife

By David Cross

A midwife who was struck off for taking a haemorrhaging mother and her newly-born son to hospital in a private car rather than waiting for a special ambulance, yesterday won her battle in the High Court for reinstatement.

Miss Jill Rosser, aged 33, one of the few independent midwives in the country, said she had been made a scapegoat for the inefficiencies of the maternity services.

"This is a good day for midwifery because we now feel we have some protection against senior members of our profession using their power in an arbitrary manner", she said.

Last year seven midwives were facing various disciplinary measures for alleged breaches of conduct but all of those have been settled in favour of the accused.

Miss Rosser, a mother of two, including a two-week-old daughter born prematurely, was found guilty by the professional conduct committee of the UK Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery, and Health Visiting last September on four out of seven counts of misconduct relating to a home birth in August 1987.

They included failing to take proper notes, failing to contact a GP, and deciding to use the patient's car, without a drip or other medical help, instead of waiting for a fully-equipped obstetrics flying squad vehicle.

But the court was told that Miss Rosser took the mother aged 37 from her home in Highgate, north London, to hospital three miles away because she knew that she might have to wait an hour or more for the special ambulance. "If I had waited it could have been fatal for the mother", Miss Rosser said at her home in Finsbury Park, north London. In the event, the mother recovered after an emergency operation and the



Miss Jill Rosser celebrates her legal victory yesterday with two-week-old daughter, Polly. Faced with the same situation again she would make exactly the same decision to use a private car, Miss Rosser added. She won her appeal before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr. Justice Phillips when the professional conduct committee conceded that there had been a "procedural irregularity" during last year's hearing.

IN THE TIMES NEXT WEEK



The big heat

● Scientists are predicting an increase in global warming, but how strong is the evidence for a worldwide greenhouse effect - and how will the world cope?

● In a three-part series beginning on Monday, *The Times* looks at the facts, the fallacies, the consequences and the politics of climatic change.



● Details of how to enter your own portfolio of shares in *The Times* Portfolio Bond competition appear today on page 28. Readers will need six vouchers, printed in *The Times* during the past week, to enter this part of the competition. Another voucher is printed today.

● There is up to £10,000 to be won each day in Portfolio Bond, using the pre-selected portfolios, your own selection, or the redeemable bond numbers.

● Mr. Gerard Connolly, aged 30, a merchant banker of South Woodham Ferrers, Essex, was the sole winner of yesterday's £2,000 daily prize. He said he would spend the money on a holiday. Portfolio Bond list: page 21. Details, voucher: page 28.

Hurd's backlash warning to Muslims

By Sheila Ginn, Political Staff

Mr. Douglas Hurd told Britain's 750,000 Muslims yesterday that their protests over Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* must be expressed peacefully. Neither violence nor threats will be tolerated.

The Home Secretary detailed his anxiety that support voiced by Muslim extremists in Britain to Ayatollah Khomeini's death threats could provoke a racial backlash. Threats of death, talk of arrows being directed at hearts are vicious and repugnant to any civilized person, he said.

Mr. Hurd used the opportunity of a long-standing engagement to speak in the Central Mosque in Birmingham to issue a public warning to Muslims. His tone was low-key but the message was clear: they must not break Britain's laws, the

same laws which protect them from harassment.

He told them: "I know from letters and from conversations with individual Muslims and MPs from all political parties how grieved and hurt British Muslims have been by Mr. Rushdie's book, *The Satanic Verses*. You feel perhaps as if the most sacred things of your faith have been insulted and wounded. You feel shocked and you feel angry. The law gives you the freedom to express your protests, peacefully and with dignity."

British Muslims, he added, are entitled to protest about a book which they believe denigrates the prophet of Islam. "But to turn such protests towards violence or the threat of violence is wholly unacceptable." No one in Britain can pick which laws to obey or ignore

and the law protected freedom of worship for all faiths. "It is the law which punishes racial attacks and racial harassment; it is a shield and a refuge, perhaps more for religious and ethnic minorities than for anyone else."

Last night, Mr. Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, welcomed Mr. Hurd's speech as containing the same message as advocated by himself.

As Mr. Hurd spoke, 3,000 Muslim demonstrators expressed their outrage over Mr. Rushdie's book at a rally in Manchester. The protesters ripped apart a paper effigy of the author they described as "evil and corrupt." Mr. Abdullah Azad, of the Manchester Central Mosque, said Mr. Rushdie had played a confidence trick on the English literary establishment.

Clifford Longley, page 12

New doubt on abuse claims

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A police surgeon who gave a second opinion on some Cleveland child abuse cases yesterday cast new doubts on the latest claims about the levels of abuse.

Dr. Raine Roberts, director of a sexual assault centre in Manchester, told a London conference that three-quarters of the children she had seen had not been abused and most denied that they had been.

Dr. Roberts carried out examinations in 39 cases. Although many exhibited "unusual" physical signs, she believed about 30 had not

been abused. Her claim appears to contradict a letter from 11 paediatricians sent to *The Guardian* claiming that "possibly over 90 per cent" of the 121 children diagnosed by Dr. Marietta Higgs and Dr. Geoffrey Wyatt were abused.

Although she refused to comment on the letter, Dr. Roberts said: "We should publish the evidence in scientific journals and not slag each other off in the press."

Mr. David Jones, chairman of the conference held by the Society of Community Medicine, said if people used figures they had to be able to justify them. Mr. Jones, general secretary of the British Associ-

ation of Social Workers, said: "It does not help in the debate if people make dramatic assertions and then are not able to back them up afterwards."

Dr. Roberts said physical evidence, including the controversial reflex anal dilatation (RAD) test, could not in itself prove abuse. She said cases were still being brought to court using this test.

She criticized the Butler-Sloss report for failing to answer questions about the diagnostic technique. It had failed to question why children still showed signs of anal dilatation 15 months after the alleged abuse.

Boys, 11, saw killing court told

Two schoolboys told the IRA funeral murder trial in Belfast yesterday how they saw a man shot to death through the windscreen of his car.

The boys, then aged 11, were on their way to school in Lisburn, Co. Antrim, when they heard a shot and saw a man with a shotgun standing beside a car, Belfast Crown Court was told.

As they watched, he fired another shot through the windscreen of the car before escaping in a second vehicle.

The killing of Kevin McPolin, aged 27, a joiner, in November 1985, is one of six sectarian murders denied by Michael Stone, aged 33, from Ravenswood Park, Belfast.

He is also accused of murdering three men during a gun and grenade attack on an IRA funeral in west Belfast in March last year.

A school patrolman, who also saw the shooting of Mr. McPolin, told Mr. Justice Higgins how the injured man had climbed out of his car and half staggered, half crawled along the road towards him before collapsing.

"I think he was dead before he hit the ground", the patrolman said.

However, Mr. McPolin was alive when he arrived at a hospital 15 minutes later but died shortly afterwards.

The trial continues on Monday.

Chatline delay

The High Court in London yesterday reserved judgement in the case of six leading telephone chatline companies whose lines were cut off by British Telecom this month.

Social attitudes in Britain

Hard workers most admired

By David Cross

Britons admire people who are hard working, self-confident and healthy rather than those who are rich, sporty and ostentatious. They have least respect for those who spend their time on such popular pursuits as sunning themselves in Majorca or sitting in front of their television watching the soap opera, *Dallas*.

These are some of the findings of a survey commissioned by the Henley Centre for Forecasting into social attitudes in the late 1980s.

The report shows that respect for the work ethic in Mrs. Thatcher's Britain far out-

strips the league table of attributes people respect most. On a scale of one to five (where one equalled "no respect" and five equalled "a lot of respect") hard work was valued at 4.5.

Next came a group of personality and physical traits, such as self-confidence, ambition and modesty (scoring just under four points), followed by characteristics associated with social competence or skills such as intelligence and an ability to speak, dress and entertain well (about 3.5 points).

"It is only then, half-way

down the rankings, that we begin to find attributes or symbols of affluence."

More than eight out of 10 Britons are most influenced in their lives by their spouse or partner, more than six out of 10 by their children and half by their parents and friends, according to the survey.

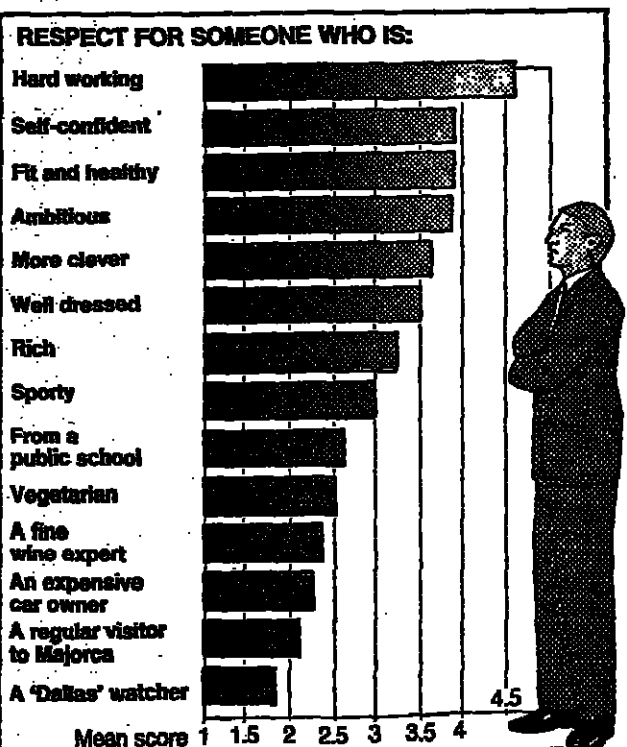
Institutions such as the media, political parties and the church which once reigned supreme have relatively little sway over our lives. Only 28 per cent of those questioned thought that television news affected the way they thought. 27 per cent of the political party they supported and 24 per cent their religious leaders.

"It is our view that deference to traditional authorities in Britain has now hit an all-time low. Politicians are liars, hypocrites or fools - and publicly described as such", the survey says.

"Doctors, lawyers and other professionals no longer get accorded the reverence and respect they once received."

After close family and friends, the next most significant sources of authority for the average Briton are his employer and workmates. Fifty-two per cent of those surveyed said they were influenced by their bosses and 39 per cent by their colleagues. Advertisers, manufacturers and members of the Royal Family are least influential. Only 14 per cent thought that they were significant forces. Union leaders were at the bottom of the league.

Planning for Social Change 1988-89 (Henley Centre for Forecasting, 2-4 Tudor Street, London EC4V 0AA; £3.50).



Guests marooned at 'Hawick Hilton'

By Kerry Gill

The Borders town of Hawick has been hit by a controversy to rival that of Chichester, the fictitious French village in which an ornate pissoir was built only to become the source of local squabbling.

The Scottish version is a £100,000 public convenience nicknamed by proud locals as the "Hawick Hilton" as a measure of its superb construction.

For the past few months however, Hawick has been beset with rumours that all was not well with the new conveniences. Essentially, old ladies were

continually finding themselves locked in the lavatory. Several days ago, the rumours finally became the subject of an official complaint at a meeting of the community council.

It was not so much that the locks did not work, rather that they worked too well. Once inside the cubicles, many found it almost impossible to get out.

Mr. John McLaren, director of technical services for Roxburgh District Council, said the council had been unaware of the difficulties until recently. "It is a bit of a music hall joke, but it is

something we are treating very seriously", he said.

Mr. McLaren said that work was in hand to rectify the doors which had slightly warped making the specially designed locks difficult to open.

"Some people have said we could have built a couple of bungalows and thrown in a caravan for the price, but the high cost is mainly because of the plumbing. Generally, people have admired the lavatory. It was entered in the 'Good Loos Award'. The entry was sent in by customers and we got a very good crit-

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Mink Section Coats	£1,295	£611	£275
Stranded Raccoon 3/4 Cts	£1,795	£877	£395
Stranded Raccoon Coats	£2,700	£1,322	£595
Stranded Mink Coats	£3,500	£1,888	£850
Blue Iris Stranded Female Mink Coats	£6,000	£2,964	£1,995

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The Times/PM Environment Award



Today *The Times* and BBC Radio Four's *PM* programme invite readers and listeners to choose an outright winner of our joint £5,000 Environment Award from the five finalists whose profiles have been published on the Spectrum page and broadcast on *PM* every day this week.

Voting will be by post only, over the next two weeks, and closes at first post on Friday, March 10. We ask you to vote for one candidate only. Votes should be sent to:

Times/PM, PO Box 11, Northampton, NN4 0RG, either using the form printed below, or by writing on a postcard. If you use a postcard, please use merely the candidate's number and location, thus: 2 - Radnor. Votes are restricted to one per voter and must carry the voter's full name and address.

Below we offer a reminder of the candidates who emerged from the more than 350 entries that were judged: a Nottinghamshire miner, a conservation

society in a remote part of Wales, a New Forest Keeper, a conservation club from Orkney, and a Berkshire infants' school.

The award has deliberately been aimed away from politicians and national pressure groups, and we invite readers and listeners, in voting, to bear in mind its main aim: to encourage work to better the environment by ordinary people in local communities. All the finalists fit this description, though their work is very different.

One of the judges, Professor Jim Lovelock, FRS, says that one of the questions he is most often asked by people who care about the environment and its fate is: "But what can I do?"

"They feel helpless in the face of global environmental problems," Professor Lovelock says. "They feel all they can do is sit back and let it all happen, even though they don't trust those in authority to do the right thing."

But there are many things that people

can do personally and the problems will only be solved if people are aware that there are things they can do themselves.

On this page are five examples of the work ordinary people are doing to combat the increasing threats to our fragile earth. We now invite *Times* readers and *PM* listeners also to do something: to vote for the example they think most deserves the *Times/PM* Environment Award, 1989.

Michael McCarthy

The way it used to be

Roger Brant is a miner in the Nottinghamshire village of Walsby near Newark who has inherited a single-handed challenge to the intensive farming all around him by creating his own conservation area. Working countless 12-hour overtime shifts at the coal face to raise the money, and providing the labour himself, he has bought a piece of land that was formerly a 100-acre site, cleared it, and planted on it a traditional wildflower meadow with cowslips, foxgloves and traditional grasses, surrounded by hundreds of young native English trees. It is in stark contrast to the



Roger Brant creating a wildlife oasis

3 - NEW FOREST

Preserving the hornet

John Gulliver is a New Forest Keeper - one of the ancient woodland's 12 foresters - with a special interest in protecting one of the forest's rarest but most awkward species, the hornet. The hornet is the largest of the British wasps with a sting to match, but is now threatened with extinction and the forest is its last stronghold. Every summer, John gets up to 20 calls to remove hornets' nests from people's houses or outbuildings and he relocates them safely into remote parts of the forest so that they can continue with their life cycle. He spends much time on study of



Nesting: John Gulliver and his friends

5 - READING

Seeds for a brighter future

The Coombes County Infants' School at Arborfield near Reading, under its headmistress Sue Humphries, is a school which tries to put its young pupils into constant contact with the natural world. Over 18 years the school grounds have been developed until they contain virtually every native species of British tree, thousands of flowers, many sorts of herbs, vegetables and fruits, and numerous nesting birds including tawny owls, as well as the school's own sheep and chickens. The five to seven-year-old children come into direct contact with all of this life daily: none leaves without



In touch: William Robinson, of Coombes

Winning the race in Wales

The Radnorshire Wildlife Trust is a group of conservation enthusiasts in Mid-Wales who last year managed to raise £170,500 to buy Giffich Farm, an abandoned hill farm with spectacular wildlife, including red kites, otters and globe flowers, all very rare in Britain. The farm is a remarkable collection of unspoiled different habitats including heather moorland, hay meadows, marshy pastures, an oak wood and a salmon river, which might well have been interfered with drastically if it had been sold for either agricultural or tourist development. Coming on the market in



Local hero: a trust member at Giffich

4 - ORKNEY

A forest link with the past

The Orkney Field Club is a group of conservation enthusiasts in the Scottish islands who are trying to care for and save what they claim is the most northerly piece of natural woodland in Britain, and probably the most easily lost - Berriedale wood on the island of Hoy. Towering sea cliffs and windswept moorland are the more familiar features of Hoy, and the wood, the last remnant of the prehistoric tree cover which cloaked the islands before man's arrival, is hanging on grimly in the face of gales that blow straight across the Atlantic from Nova Scotia. It is also threatened



Spare that wood: a club member at Hoy



VOTING FORM

Please vote for one candidate only, by ticking the appropriate box. Fill in your name, address and telephone number, cut out this form and send it to *Times/PM*, PO Box 11, Northampton, NN4 0RG. Votes must be received by first post on Friday, March 10.

1 - NEWARK ☐ 3 - NEW FOREST ☐ 5 - READING ☐
2 - RADNOR ☐ 4 - ORKNEY ☐

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

February 24 PARLIAMENT

Bill to ban waste-dump 'cowboys' goes ahead

There was an unopposed second reading in the Commons for a Bill to control "fly-tippers", who illegally dump waste, mainly building rubble.

"Cowboy" operators were accused during the debate of threatening violence against those who sought to stop them.

Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said that the Government intended to introduce a Bill to reform waste-disposal law as soon as possible. But she stopped at a second reading for this measure.

Mrs Joan Ruddock (Leisham, Deptford, Lab), moving second reading of the Control of Pollution (Amendment) Bill, said that fly-tipping was far more serious than the occasional dumped three-pint mite or fridge.

It was of two sorts: commercial or industrial waste and building rubble. It was creating a growing and serious health hazard, particularly but not only in London. It was costing councils millions of pounds a year to clean up.

Up to 90 per cent of fly-tipped waste in London was coming from construction sites. It might be dumped on open spaces, car parks, industrial estates, even in back gardens.

It was extremely difficult to find who was responsible because anyone could obtain a vehicle and get themselves up as a waste disposal contractor. Legal disposal was expensive and the incentive to break the law was strong.

It had been estimated that there were over a million tonnes of fly-tipped waste on the streets of London at any one time and disposing of it was an enormous burden on ratepayers.

Dumping often happened at night and was accompanied by threats of personal intimidation to residents who lived in the locality. An estimated 15 per cent of the material was toxic. Prosecutions were few.

The Bill introduced registration for operators of controlled waste and authorized the impounding of vehicles suspected of being used in an offence if the owner could not be traced.

A person convicted of a related offence would be removed from the register. Power would be given to the police to stop a vehicle and require the driver to produce authority for transporting waste.

Impounding vehicles might sound draconian but it was presented as a last resort. "I believe that these measures are justified in the light of the immense cost which society is paying as a consequence of fly-tipping."

Sir Hugh Read (Hornsey and Wood Green, C), chairman of the Select Committee on the Environment, said that his committee welcomed the Bill.

The clearance cost was not paid directly by the producer of the waste, or the "cowboy carrier" who dumped it, but by ratepayers.

"Magistrates really do not understand the environmental consequences... They impose draconian fines that the perpetrators pay willingly and readily as a minor overhead expense."

Proposals for vehicle impounding should be more draconian. There was room in the Bill for the impounding to be permanent.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, Dem) said that there was big money to be made by fly-tippers and the lives of those trying to stop it had been threatened.

On one occasion fly-tippers had produced sawn-off shotguns when approached. On another, an official's house had been visited by men with shotguns.

Mr Robin Squire (Hornchurch, C) said that it was so uncomfortable for people going about their daily, dirty, criminal business, that they cease doing it.

Mr Ken Livingstone (Brent East, Lab) said that the police had told him that organized crime was now involved. One individual could make a profit of £2,000 a week by fly-tipping.

"It needs to be stamped out and ruthlessly." He would be supporting the first possible piece of legislation for the police to deal with it.

Mrs Joan Walley, an Opposition spokesman on environmental protection, said that the Bill would provide powers to combat what had become a national disgrace.

Mrs Bottomley said that the Government would give unequivocal support to the parts of the Bill covering registration of carriers, which formed part of the measures the Government proposed to implement. But it had reservations about the proposed means of achieving that.

The Government's proposals would effectively ensure that the increasingly sophisticated crime of fly-tipping would be properly dealt with and that the worst perpetrators no longer escaped without redress.

"No longer will a producer be able to give waste to the first person appearing with a tipper truck at the factory gate. If he does, and that waste turns up illegally dumped, then the producer will be liable to prosecution."

A register of waste carriers was necessary. The Bill gave an opportunity for this to be up and running before the Government's main legislation on waste took effect.

The proposals in the Bill about stopping and confiscating vehicles were attractive, but there were difficulties that had not been ironed out. The Government was consulting on this problem.

Some municipal waste incinerators would not be able to meet new EEC air-pollution controls. Mrs Bottomley told MPs late on Thursday. Most would be able to adapt, but a significant increase in costs would be inevitable.

In a debate on two EEC draft directives on pollution emission from municipal incinerators, she said that it would cost £20-40 million to build a new plant to meet the new standards. Conversion of an existing plant could cost up to about £5 million.

The directive for new plants could be ready for agreement on March 2.

The International Parliamentary Organizations (Registration) Bill and the Common Land (Rectification of Registers) Bill were given second readings without debate.

Breath test foiled

A private Member's Bill to allow the police to carry out random breath tests on motorists was "talked out" in the Commons, after a vote by Mrs Bottomley.

Under Secretary of State for Transport, had indicated little Government support for it.

He said that the police caught a thousand drivers a week who had drunk twice the legal limit. That would not happen with random testing. It must be targeted.

The only sensible advice the Government could give was that drinking and driving did not mix. "Do not combine the bottle with the throttle."

Mr John Hume Robertson (East Lothian, Lab), moving the second reading of his Road Traffic (Breath Tests) Bill, said that a hard core of reckless

motorists did not care about the risk of hurting themselves and others and did not believe that they would get caught.

Half the offenders were upper-middle-class business people aged between 40 and 50. They were difficult for the police to target and so they just drove on until the almost inevitable disaster happened.

Mr Gary Waller (Keighley, C) said that consultations on drink-driving were already in process and it would be precipitous to go ahead with legislation before they were concluded.

The International Parliamentary Organizations (Registration) Bill and the Common Land (Rectification of Registers) Bill were given second readings without debate.

Cardiff Bay development plan advances

A private Bill to allow a £90 million barrage to be built in Cardiff Bay and the development of derelict dockland and waterfront land around the bay was given a second reading in the Lords on Thursday night.

The Bill, the Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill, was introduced by Lord Breaks of Tremorfa (Lab), leader of South Glamorgan County Council and deputy chairman of Cardiff Bay Development Corporation.

The Lords instructed the select committee on the Bill to pay attention to the effect of the development on water quality and the migration of fish between the bay and the sea.

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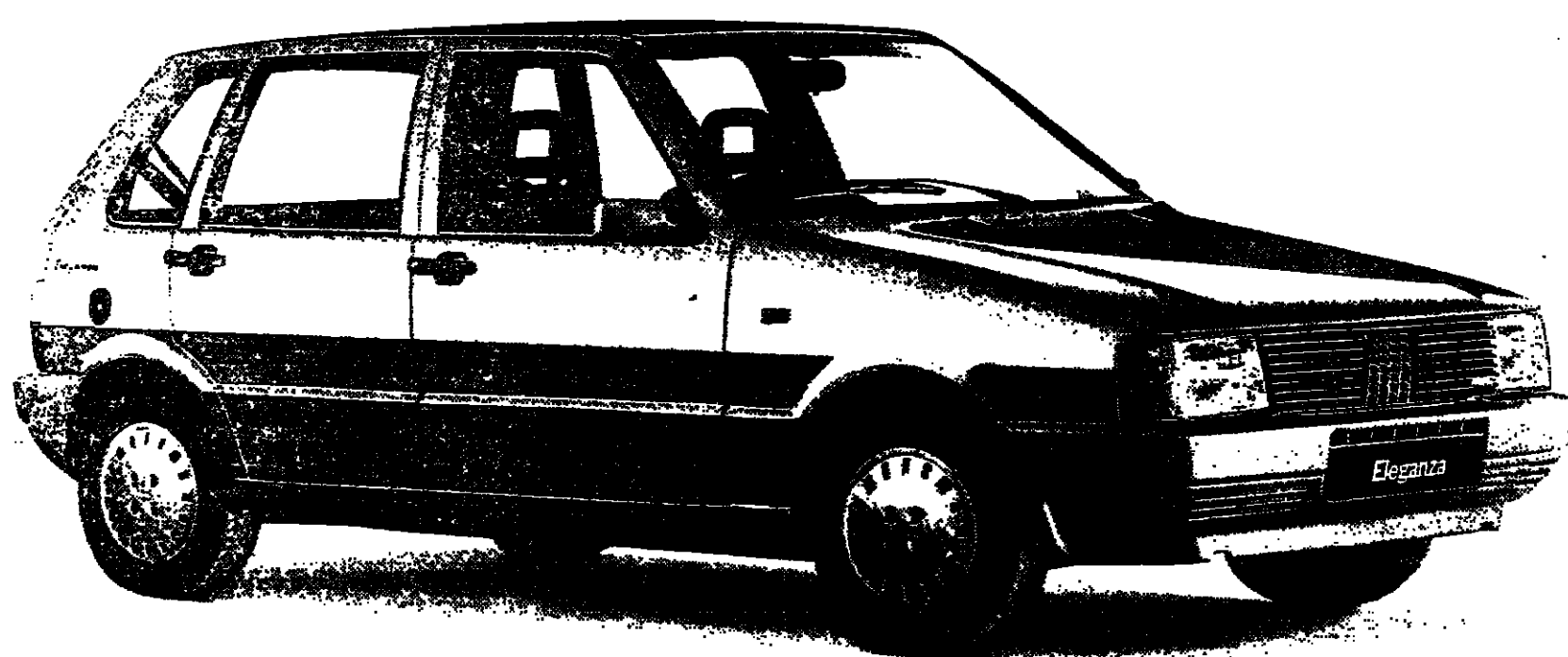
The fact is that, in the vast majority of cases, once customers have contacted us, we are able to come to an arrangement that lets them pay off what they owe at a rate they can afford - and keep their gas supply.

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US deeply troubled by Nato allies' view of Gorbachov

From Michael Binyan, Washington

Despite President Bush's public satisfaction with the whirlwind tour of 15 Nato capitals by Mr James Baker, his Secretary of State, the United States is deeply troubled by what he found.

Mr Baker's trip reinforced a worry that is increasingly dogging the Bush Administration and threatens to sour relations with the Western allies: the appeal of President Gorbachov to Europeans, and their perception that Washington is not yet ready to recapture the initiative in East-West relations.

Mr Bush insists that Nato unity is still strong, and emphasized again this week, before leaving for Emperor Hirohito's funeral in Tokyo, that the Nato allies still look to the US for leadership. He

angrily rejected suggestions that American foreign policy was reactive, with Mr Gorbachov now setting the pace in the Middle East and elsewhere.

However, Administration officials have not hidden their alarm at the changing mood in Western Europe and the effect this is having on Alliance policy, especially in West Germany.

Mr Bush refused to speculate on the dispute with Bonn over the modernization of short-range missiles, and Mr Baker's diplomatic side-stepping of the issue in his talks with Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, was a clear attempt to buy time.

Washington nevertheless believes that Mr Gorbachov may have succeeded not only in weakening Nato cohesion, but in permanently driving a wedge between the US and West Germany,

which is the key member of the Alliance.

Mr Baker's aides believe that the US must now challenge the Soviet leader with new ideas, and go on the offensive by showing the West that the Kremlin's proposals are really only the acceptance of long-standing Western demands.

The Secretary of State is hampered by the slow pace with which the new Administration is settling in. He still has not appointed an Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, and the long delay in confirming Senator John Tower as Defence Secretary means that Washington cannot

hasten its overall strategic reassessment. His rejection by the Senate armed services committee yesterday will not have helped.

In the vacuum, with the Administration still running on a skeleton staff, the views of General

Brent Scowcroft, the National Security Adviser, become increasingly influential — and he has said he foresees a difficult period in ties with Western Europe.

He believes there are three main points of disagreement over relations with the Soviet Union in the Gorbachov era: how swiftly the US should move on arms-control talks, how much credit the Europeans should extend to Moscow, and how much of the defence burden Europe should shoulder.

US officials increasingly mix a fourth area with these — the 1992 integration of the European Community and the prospect of stiffer economic competition.

General Scowcroft is unwilling to move into the policy-making field, but his pessimistic views will strongly influence both Mr Baker and President Bush.

For the moment, Mr Baker has

played his cards close to his chest, listening to the views of European allies without revealing long-term US policy. He has expressed concern at European calls for a swift initiative in the Middle East, and said the moment was not yet ripe. Otherwise, his trip was more symbolic, designed more to reassure the allies that they will be closely consulted than to respond to their policy suggestions.

President Bush has said he does not want to be reacting all the time to Mr Gorbachov's high-profile diplomacy, and intends to outline his own agenda for East-West relations. There is little agreement here, however, on what that agenda should be.

A debate is under way in Congress and among Administration officials on how much the US should help the Soviet leader, and whether advocates of caution,

such as Mr Baker and General Scowcroft, are letting slip a historic opportunity.

Democrats are growing restless. Senator Alan Cranston, of California, said last week: "So far, Mr Gorbachov has taken most of the initiatives in arms control. It's time for America to have the courage to lead — to lower the nuclear threshold."

Senator Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Senate's foreign relations committee, told Mr Baker at his confirmation hearings: "There is no more urgent priority facing you than to continue the momentum of arms control with the Soviet Union, more particularly in the area of strategic weapons."

Moves in Congress to help Mr Gorbachov include a possible one-year suspension of the Jackson-Vanik amendment, which links easier trade terms to the emigra-

tion of Soviet Jews. This would require congressional consent, and would spur the whole debate on whether the Cold War is in fact ending and how the US should react if it is.

Mr Baker was strongly reminded that Europe no longer saw the Soviet Union as a military threat, and even US polls point to a change in attitude.

An ABC television poll released on Monday found that 44 per cent of Americans saw the Japanese economy as the greatest challenge to the US, compared with 51 per cent who still saw Soviet military power as the main danger.

Mr Baker knows that the US must find a new approach and new rhetoric if it is to maintain the cohesion of Nato as the alliance approaches its 40th anniversary. So far, little new thinking has emerged from the strategic review.

Tower débâcle threatens to leave lasting damage on Administration

Bush fails in first test of strength

From Michael Binyan, Washington

The unravelling of the Tower nomination began two weeks ago, when a leading conservative told the Senate that he had several times seen the former senator drunk and in the company of women to whom he was not married.

The testimony of Mr Paul Weyrich was clearly distasteful to Senator Sam Nunn and his colleagues on the Senate armed services committee. They called for a private hearing and behind closed doors sharply criticized Mr Weyrich.

But they were not surprised by what he said. For he did no more than voice the persistent rumours that have swirled around Mr John Tower since the day President Bush nominated him Defence Secretary. The senators were determined not to allow a nomination to slip through which they later regretted, as they did with Mr Edwin Meese, President Reagan's controversial Attorney General. They called for further investigation. But by now the floodgates had been opened. More and more allegations streamed into their offices and into print.

Reports of Mr Tower's sexual misconduct while leading arms control negotiations in Geneva turned up in documents and State Department investigations, growing more lurid with every revelation. Lobbying payments from arms contractors led into ever murkier waters and more questionable dealings. Stories of public drunkenness were all over town, and although specific instances were hard to prove, a pattern of behaviour was all too clear.

The armed services committee had not intended to inflict this slow death by innuendo. But they had little sympathy for their former colleague. For his arrogance

and the high-handed manner in which he had treated the same committee as its chairman had antagonized many Democrats and Republicans alike. They did not relish the prospect of similar arrogance from him as Secretary of Defence, and were determined to take him down a peg.

But what began as bipartisan and scrupulously fair investigation under the chairmanship of Senator Nunn became increasingly political as the process dragged on, leaving the Pentagon rudderless at a critical moment, embarrassing President Bush and developing into a test of the new President's authority.

As Mr Tower's credibility ebbed with every fresh allegation, Mr Nunn and even conservative Democrats concluded, reluctantly, that his nomination was damaged beyond repair.

Mr Bush knew his choice for the Pentagon was controversial. Many in the transition team tried to talk him out of it. Their concern was not the womanizing and drinking but the fear that Mr Tower would be another Caspar Weinberger, a zealous supporter of a continued military build-up who would be unable to undertake the strategic review and cost-cutting Mr Bush knew was inevitable.

But Mr Bush owed a deep political debt to Mr Tower. The Tower Report on the Iran-Contra scandal was a widely praised and comprehensive investigation that stiffly halted the political damage and enabled the Reagan Administration to recover balance. It also exonerated Mr Bush.

Mr Tower was also one of Mr Bush's earliest supporters when the then Vice-President was far from assured of the Republican nomination.



Senator John Warner, right, listening to Senator Sam Nunn at a committee hearing on Mr Tower. Mr Bush later spoke to reporters in Tokyo about the controversy.

The new President saw Mr Tower as "Nixon in China" — the only man with enough pro-defence credibility to take on the Pentagon establishment and cut the budget.

What the President did not see was the slow public destruction of his nominee.

He was unwilling to blame the Democrats because he was calling for bipartisan co-operation and needed their goodwill over the budget. He did not want to put pressure on Senator Nunn, knowing that any challenge to a chairman clearly trying to be fair would be counterproductive.

But the political damage to Mr Bush of such a huge moral and political defeat for his nominee will leave lasting damage.

He has promised now to fight all the way to the finish. But he can already see how the votes will go in the full Senate. For if Mr Nunn and the conservative Democrats have cast their influential recommendation to turn down their former colleague, few other Democrats can now be persuaded to vote for him. Mr Bush must now try to persuade Mr Tower to withdraw.

For President Bush the affair has turned out to be a political disaster. He must prevent further fall-out and rapidly achieve success in some field at home to erase the growing impression that he is an accident-prone President who does not have the political touch or backbone of his predecessor.



Prince appeals for action on Amazon forest

From Tony Bianchi, Puerto Ayacucho, Venezuela

The Prince of Wales explored the rain forest of the Venezuelan Amazon yesterday and talked to Indian chiefs about how best to protect the environment.

The Prince, on the last day of a three-day visit to the country, expressed deep concern about developments which threaten the Amazon, often referred to as the lungs of our planet.

The day's excursion, including a cruise on the Orinoco river, took the Royal visitor to several Indian villages.

The Prince urged regional developers to limit their projects to specific urban areas, avoid river pollution and keep deforestation to a minimum.

Venezuelan environmentalists told the Prince of Wales in Caracas on Thursday that the Amazon area was also threatened by a growing invasion of gold miners, mostly from Brazil.

Most miners, who have no exploitation permits, use mercury to separate gold dust, pellets and nuggets from rock and soil. Subsequently this highly toxic substance washes down streams and rivers causing the death of thousands of fish.

The Prince of Wales was given a warm welcome when he arrived in Puerto Ayacucho, a day Amazonian capital, yesterday. Practically the whole town took the day off for the occasion.

Picnics in English were displayed at the town's airport proclaiming "Prince, this is your home" and "Welcome to our Amazon", as well as one that read "Say Hello to Lady Di".

The Prince waved to the

crowd and shook hands with a few people before he left to visit jungle villages. Señor Rafael Polania, the Amazonian State Governor, arranged for the Prince to meet a large contingent of English-speaking evangelists who live with the Indians.

He attributed the rousing welcome for the Prince to his "great popularity" as well as the environmental and ecological cause which he defends around the world.

Remarking that the local inhabitants depended on agriculture and their surroundings for their livelihood, Señor Polania asked: "How else could you expect our people to be the champion of preservation?"

On Thursday the Prince travelled to the south-western town of Barinas where he inspected the progress of the Simon Bolívar University Institute of Technology and Agriculture, a project he conceived and proposed to President Pérez during his first term in office more than 10 years ago.

The Prince told reporters that the importance of the project was underestimated.

"Success in the investigations carried out here on how to improve agriculture, the ecology and local flora and produce is an important breakthrough and similar institutes can be reproduced in many other parts of the world."

The Prince of Wales's visit to South America coincided with the first joint political action by 20 Amazon rain forest tribes. More than 500 Indians gathered in the Brazilian jungle town of Altamira to protest against planned hydroelectric dams that would flood their land.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Irish soldier killed in south Lebanon

Jerusalem — An Irish soldier of the United Nations force in southern Lebanon was killed yesterday by machine-gun fire from a unit of the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army". United Nations sources said (Richard Owen writes). The soldier was killed at a checkpoint at Hadatha in Israel's self-imposed security zone, the Unifil spokesman, Mr Timor Goksel, announced.

Mr Goksel said the shooting appeared to come from an SLA position. Colonel Patrick Keogh of Unifil said the SLA had fired from a distance of about one mile. "We don't know why the soldier was shot," Colonel Keogh said. Other Unifil officers said there had been several incidents in which SLA units had fired at UN troops at Hadatha. They said the incidents were reported to Israel, which had not responded. The latest shooting follows protests by Unifil against Israeli actions in the security zone, including the expulsion of local Arabs identified as being hostile to the SLA.

British yacht seized

Lisbon — Portugal's Customs police intercepted a British yacht near Sagres on the Algarve coast on Thursday night and said they had found nearly 3,000lb of hashish on board (Michele de la Cui writes). The crew consisted of two Britons and one Dutchman, who were charged yesterday. Portuguese police declined to reveal the names of the men, but it was known that the British captain was around 40 years old and was from Cannock, Staffordshire. The yacht had sailed from North Africa. British diplomats in Portugal said they had not been informed of the arrests.

Berlin death protest

Berlin (AFP) — Britain, France and the US lodged a sharp protest yesterday against the killing, by East German border guards at the Berlin Wall, of a waiter fleeing to freedom. East Germany was violating a fundamental right by gunning him down, Mr Anthony Sartir, the spokesman for the US mission here, said in a joint statement by the city's three Western military commanders. Chris Geoffrey, aged 20, was shot trying to swim to the West on February 6. He was buried in East Berlin on Thursday. Another man was seriously wounded in the same escape attempt.

'Disorderly' visions

Rome (AFP) — An Italian judge has charged Senator Renato Baron, a pensioner, with abusing popular beliefs by claiming that he has been seeing and talking to the Virgin Mary for nearly three years. The judge at Salvo, near Venice, the site of the visions, said that the law provided for prison sentences of up to three months for anyone who tried to abuse popular credulity by deceit, threatening to disrupt public order.

Bhopal millions paid

Delhi (Reuters) — Union Carbide handed over \$465 million (£264 million) to the Indian Supreme Court yesterday, the outstanding balance of the court's \$470 million judgement to compensate victims of the Bhopal tragedy. Afterwards an Indian lawyer filed a writ asking the court to increase the compensation judgement to \$600 million.

Hirohito ceremonies accompanied by protests

By Our Foreign Staff

Solemn ceremonies in Tokyo for Emperor Hirohito contrasted with noisy protests around the world as war veterans denounced his role during the Second World War.

Protesters in South Korea, denouncing him as "man-kind's biggest war criminal," and burnt Japanese flags in two cities. Riot police blocked about 70 demonstrators from marching on the Japanese Embassy in Seoul. Police took 10 marchers into custody.

In the southern city of Pusan, about 60 protesters burnt a Japanese flag near the Japanese consulate and demanded that Japan apologize for war atrocities.

In Australia, former servicemen chartered a plane to fly a "Let Us Forget" banner over the capital, Canberra.

The flag at the Australian War Memorial in the capital was flying at full mast after outraged reaction from servicemen forced the Government to water down a directive ordering all government buildings to fly flags at half-mast to mark the funeral. War Memorial staff, all-

owed to decide whether the flag should be lowered, said they had left it at full mast out of respect for the feelings of former servicemen and the families of those who had died at the hands of the Japanese.

More than a third of the 22,000 Australians captured by the Japanese in the war died in prisoner-of-war camps, where starvation and torture were widespread.

● TOKYO: Perhaps for the

last time, Emperor Hirohito yesterday stirred the Japanese people to a range of powerful emotions from sadness to anger. But the most widespread emotion of all appeared to be indifference (Jonathan Braude writes).

Mr Nobuyoshi Tachimura, who braved the cold and drizzle to watch the coffin transfer at the palace, said it would be the last great funeral in his lifetime. He wanted to

catch the moment of passing of the old era and not ponder the Emperor's responsibility for the war. "There is no point in discussing this endlessly," he said.

The Fujikawa family travelled across Japan for the funeral, but were disappointed at the modernity of the ceremony. "The last Emperor was carried slowly on a barge pulled by cows. Now the era is different. The hearse was a car

and just sped past us," said Mr Fujikawa.

He believed the Emperor was not the only one to blame for the war, and that all the Japanese people should bear responsibility.

Mr Fujikawa complained that the flurry of funeral diplomacy — visiting dignitaries are taking advantage of the international gathering to exchange views — was undignified. But Mr Nobuyoshi

thought that the diplomats should be allowed to get on with their job.

Mr Yasuaki Mizuno, aged 76, remembered the war, but said he spent it as a civilian working for a Japanese company in Saigon and had come to the funeral only because he had found his office closed.

A public opinion poll of 1,060 adults conducted by the Tokyo Broadcasting System showed 60 per cent of Japanese believe the Emperor was at least partly responsible for the war.

This belief was demonstrated by anti-imperialist groups round the country who held rallies in protest at what the Japanese Communist Party described as a government campaign to glorify the late Emperor.

At the stroke of noon, when the new Emperor was leading Japan in a minute of silent prayer, a group in Okinawa broke into cries of "Let us think about the responsibility of the Emperor".

Many Japanese, even in the few public places where the ceremony was broadcast, ignored the minute's silence.

Duke laying wreath to appease war veterans

From Jonathan Braude, Tokyo

The laying of wreaths by the Duke of Edinburgh and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Yokohama this morning is intended to appease war veterans incensed that they attended the funeral of Emperor Hirohito.

The ceremony is, however, unlikely to allay criticism of the Duke's attendance, and he was fully prepared for some

disruption by disgruntled war veterans. Although only 15 British ex-servicemen now living in Japan were included in plans for the ceremony, war veterans are never refused entry to the cemetery.

To the Duke, who fought in the Far East in the Second World War, the cemetery must have as much significance as for any of those now criticizing his visit.

Nearly 1,300 British ser-

vicemen and more than 470 men from the British Commonwealth who fought beside them against the Japanese are buried in the cemetery.

Most fell victim to the brutal conditions in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps, but many were also killed in allied bombing raids and naval bombardments as the war drew to a close.

Barred in the cemetery is

New constitution for Algeria

By Susan MacDonald

Algerians have voted to adopt a new constitution which does away with their socialist state and opens the way for a multi-party system, replacing a rigid one-party form of government which has lasted 27 years.

The 73 per cent approval given in a national referendum on Thursday is, however, lower than the percentage which approved a first set of liberalizing reforms in a referendum last November and the percentage that voted in President Chadli for a third term in December.

This reflects a feeling among Algerians that they may be taken for a ride. The new constitution paves the way for sweeping changes. The armed forces, who have played a key role in running

the country since the Algerian war of independence, will now concentrate only on defence.

The ideals of socialism no longer figure in the text. It breaks the monopoly of the National Liberation Front, in power since independence in 1962, by allowing the formation of political organizations outside the grouping.

Public-sector workers are given the previously denied right to strike and freedom of expression and freedom of the press will be dealt with in the first of a series of new laws to be presented to the now more powerful National Assembly in the coming weeks.

It appears that President Chadli has, in a short space of time, managed to control the Army and break the resistance

of the ruling party. But discontent simmers right through the party and Army. Some trade unions too instructed members to vote against the new constitution.

The greatest fear of the majority of Algerians is to see Islamic fundamentalism come to power.

But poverty together with the overt flaunting of wealth linked to a Western style of life provides fertile ground for those who preach Islamic fervour.

The fundamentalist threat stretches across North Africa. From Morocco to Egypt, each country's leader knows he must find a way of improving living standards and creating participation in political life if he is to thwart it.

Golden fleece amazes farmer

Robert Cockburn, Sydney

A single bale of wool has fetched a record £136,000 after intense bidding by international fabric manufacturers at an auction in Launceston, Tasmania.

In 10 minutes of frantic bidding Japan's Fujii Corporation succeeded in increasing by almost eight-fold the previous record paid for wool by paying £1,360 a kilo (2.2lb).

Mr Ken Fujii, head of the Japanese concern, was bidding against stiff competition from Italy's two manufacturers, Lanificio Titanus and Loro Piana, in a ritual that has more to do with publicity value than the growing price of wool in the highly competitive fashion world.

Fujii eventually intends to

turn the superfine strands of merino wool into 150 men's suits, 50 men's coats and 50 women's coats to be retailed to the exclusive Japanese fashion market. The firm makes suits for the Imperial Family in Japan.

Mr Fujii will first parade his bale around a number of publicity events for his corporation in Australia and Japan.

"It is a PR job," explained Mr John O'Connor of the Australian Wool Corporation, who was reported as saying that the advertising and promotional value was worth far more than the exorbitant price that had been paid.

That will have no influence on the general wool market where the ordinary trading

price only managed to reach 30 per cent less than the prices that were being paid last May.

But for Mr Roderic O'Connor, a sheep farmer who runs the Coonoville Station, a merino stud, at Cressy in northern Tasmania, the sale of that one bale is the equivalent of around 40 per cent of his expected annual wool sales.

He said he looked on "in absolute amazement" as his wool went up in price at the auction.

He said: "It just goes to show what a strong wool industry can do for this country, especially at the top end of the market. I am just pleased they chose our bale to set the record." Mr O'Connor's station has held the world record in 1967.



Human cost of the Afghanistan war

UN finds the destruction 'worse than in Beirut'

From Christopher Walker, Kabul

A shocking picture of the physical and human devastation caused by the war in Afghanistan has emerged in a new United Nations report, the first in which independent United Nations observers were able to investigate conditions outside Kabul since the Soviet invasion in December, 1979.

Much of the report concentrates on Herat, a city of some 140,000 people, acknowledged to have been less badly hit than other provincial centres such as Jalalabad and Kandahar, where fierce fighting prevented investigation.

The UN team, which discovered that boys as young as eight years old were regularly ambushing Russians in the bazaar with hand grenades, reported that 40 per cent of the houses had been destroyed, as had most buildings along the first nine miles of main roads leading out of the city. Of 1,300 villages in Herat province, 600 were either damaged or destroyed.

"The school system has practically collapsed," the report said. "The majority of schools have been destroyed. Many others are seriously damaged and have little, if any, teaching aids, school books or furniture. Primary school teachers are very rare. Some 400 are reported to have been killed."

The report, a copy of which was obtained by *The Times* yesterday, is regarded as important by the handful of foreign diplomats still in Kabul because it provides detailed information which cannot be dismissed as biased. "It has confirmed some of our worst fears," one diplomat said.

Mr Ross Mountain, a New Zealander and one of the eight-strong UN team which visited Herat last September, said: "The devastation was depressing to see. It was as bad as, if not worse than, Beirut. Because of the security problems, we were unable to get out more than a few miles into the countryside, but it is fair to assume that things were even worse there."

Requests by newsmen to visit the city in recent days have been rejected by the Afghan authorities because of

fighting between government troops and the Muslim rebels. This is understood to have escalated since the final Soviet retreat.

In the field of health, the UN found that in the rural areas around Herat, which borders on Iran, there was an average of one doctor for every 50,000 Afghan inhabitants. Infant mortality was estimated at a staggering 185 for every 1,000 live births and 85 per cent of child deaths were caused by diarrhoea or lack of immunization.

"The health and nutrition situation is critical," the report said. "Women and children are most severely affected. Those basic health care facilities which still exist have little or no drugs or supplies."

Mr Mountain said: "The trip was a terrible reminder that even before the war, Afghanistan was one of the poorest countries in the world. It will take years and hundreds of millions of dollars just to return to the unenviable position it was in before the Russians arrived in 1979."

In Herat's main provincial hospital, the UN investigators discovered that 373 amputations had been performed between 1983 and 1988, most on young children under the age of 15 and most as a result of anti-personnel mines. A further 750 amputations had taken place in other, less sophisticated, medical facilities in the area over the same period.

"The problem was made even greater because there was not a single facility for making or supplying artificial limbs in the whole city," Mr Mountain said. "For the children especially, this made coping with the loss of a limb or limbs even more horrific. And we know that because of mines,

the problem could get even more serious when the refugees return."

Herat, a historic city first rebuilt after its conquest by Alexander the Great in the fourth century BC, relies largely on agriculture to provide a living for its inhabitants, many of whom have fled to a dubious welcome in Iran.

The UN found that irrigated acreage had dropped to just over half the prewar levels, and that agricultural production had suffered a similar slump.

"As well as the physical devastation, there was the vital human factor," Mr Mountain said.

The UN official, whose work encouraging Afghan development projects is hampered by the serious security situation in Kabul, which is under siege from rebels to the north and south, added: "My main concern is that, now the Russians have left, international interest in Afghanistan will decline just when these appalling human problems have to be dealt with."

Initial UN figures show that \$1.1 billion (£600 million) will be needed over the next 18 months to deal with the refugee problem. No estimate has been reached as to how much will be required to reconstruct a country so ravaged by war that many of its regions resemble moonscapes.

The UN report, part of the organization's Afghan rescue programme code-named "Operation Salam (peace)", also showed that the situation was equally serious in those parts of Afghanistan which have been handed over to effective Mujahidin control.

A different UN team, which travelled 250 gruelling miles in the southern Paktia province between December 18 and 22, said: "The health situation is critical. Not a single doctor was present in the area inspected. All the schools are closed, the teachers gone. Mines scattered on roads and fields create constant risks and restrict free movement."

RAWALPINDI: Afghan insurgents launched their new government-in-exile yesterday by demanding the country's

seat at the United Nations and calling on supporters of the Kabul administration to desert it (Reuters reports).

Professor Sibghatullah Mujadidi, a moderate, who was elected head of the Mujahidin government on Thursday, also offered an amnesty to most Kabul officials. He added that his government hoped to meet inside Afghanistan within a month.

"We request the United Nations to give the seat of Afghanistan to the legal government of the Mujahidin," he said at a news conference at the close of the *shura*, a consultative council, which elected him.

"We call on our brothers still working with the puppet regime to join the ranks of the Mujahidin," he stated. "We offer a general amnesty for all those whose hands are not stained with the blood of our brothers."

He did not offer any definition of those not covered by the amnesty, but after previous such offers Mujahidin officials said only about 1,000 people would be exempted. They include President Najibullah and other top ranking members of his government, now fighting alone after the departure on February 15 of the last Soviet troops.

The exceptions also include members of the Khad secret police whom the Mujahidin accuse of torturing prisoners, the officials said.

The government-in-exile was voted into office after nearly two weeks of feuding between moderates and fundamentalists joined in a seven-party Pakistan-based alliance and a boycott by eight smaller groups based in Iran.

"We shall meet within one month," *Inshallah* (God will), inside Afghanistan, Professor Mujadidi said.

He appeared to be reflecting Mujahidin hopes that they could quickly take either Jalalabad or Herat and establish the government there.

The professor said he would be executive president and announced some clarification of the complex system under which *shura* delegates voted for two of the seven Pakistan-based parties.

Trusted associates who once believed the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) could not survive without the charismatic leadership of Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, now argue that it may fare better if he were to step down before the June elections.

As a result, a chorus within the party is openly challenging his leadership.

Doubts deepened after the disgraced banker, Mr George Koskotas, who faces extradition proceedings in the United States, claimed in a handwritten letter that he bought the luxurious King George Hotel in central Athens at the Prime Minister's behest in 1986 because its debt-ridden owner had given Mr Papandreu free use of a seaside villa for his extra-

marital affair with Mrs Dimitra Liani, the former airline stewardess.

Mr Dimitris Doris, Athens director of public prosecutions, has ordered an inquiry into Mr Koskotas's allegations that the transaction, valued at £3.6 million, was made possible only after the Government waived half the owner's £11.3 million debt to the state as an act of favouritism.

Mr Koskotas, who is wanted in Greece on charges of embezzling more than £120 million from deposits entrusted to his Bank of Crete, claims to possess evidence that he bribed the Government to condone his activities.

Mr Doris also ordered an inquiry into the reasons that prompted 14 state corporations and services to increase

usual familiarity between Mr Koskotas and Mr Papandreu, as well as their close aides. In some letters, Mr Koskotas offered the Government advice on how to silence critics by carrying out a perfunctory audit of the Bank of Crete, but also on how to confound the opposition.

As calls for the Prime Minister's resignation multiply, Mr Papandreu keeps a low profile. Even the Government's reactions to daily allegations of fresh scandals sound muted. An opinion poll last week for the first time showed the Prime Minister's popularity in the party had dropped to fifth rank.

Mr Papandreu is expected to counter-attack tomorrow when he is to give a pep talk to a national gathering of Socialist party cadres.

Captain guilty in boat people case



Captain Alexander Balian, US Navy, accusing his superior of making a scapegoat of him after he was found guilty yesterday of dereliction of duty in failing to adequately help a boatload of Vietnamese refugees who later resorted to cannibalism to survive.

But the court only sought a reprimand for Captain Balian, who dismissed the two-week trial at Subic Bay naval base in the Philippines as a waste of money and a political exercise designed to save the Navy's image at his expense (AFP reports).

The highly-decorated Vietnam War veteran, aged 48, was relieved as commander of the USS DeBakey after he was accused of abandoning a group of boat people encountered in the South China Sea on June 9, 1988.

Survivors who reached the Philippines disclosed that members of the group murdered three of their companions and cooked their flesh for food after supplies left by the DeBakey ran out. Only 52 of the 110 refugees survived the 37-day ordeal.

Captain Balian reacted angrily after the proceedings and lashed out at unnamed superiors whom he blamed for dashing his hopes of becoming an admiral.

"I was headed for good things," he said in a voice choked with emotion, complaining that the findings would prevent him from going to sea again. He said he was being assigned back to the United States.

Papandreu under party pressure

From Mario Modiano, Athens

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Roh's foreign successes fail to placate Koreans

From John Gittelsohn, Seoul

President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea, who marks his first year in power today, faces the unwelcome prospect of fulfilling a campaign promise to give a public anniversary accounting.

The former general became the first man in the country's history to assume office peacefully after a democratic election. He promised to rid the Government of its authoritarian image while maintaining social stability. Critics, increasing on both left and right, say that he has failed to deliver.

"He is a weak leader," said Professor Lee Jung Bock, a political science specialist at Seoul National University. "He has worked too much on foreign affairs. He has neglected domestic problems."

Fearing defeat in his campaign, Mr Roh, aged 56, pledged to give the people a second chance to judge him if elected. Such a proposition would have easily gone Mr Roh's way had not his ruling Democratic Justice Party lost its majority in April's National Assembly elections.

The timing and form of Mr Roh's confidence vote could be announced as soon as Friday, when the President plans a press conference to

mark his anniversary, according to party officials. "We are not chicken," Mr Park Doo Kyu, the ruling party chairman, said, referring to a popular vote.

The opposition has attacked the President for blocking punishment of his predecessor and mentor, Mr Chun Doo Hwan, who fled to domestic exile in a Buddhist monastery three months ago. This week, ruling party legislators boycotted National Assembly hearings investigating misdeeds of Mr Chun's administration.

Meanwhile, hardliners inside the ruling party complain that Mr Roh is letting the country slip towards anarchy, amid rising crime and

growing protests by farmers, radical students and unions. There has been almost no talk, however, of the kind of military coup that ended previous democratic interludes in South Korea.

Despite failing to please most South Koreans, Mr Roh has presided over a series of stunning achievements. The economy grew 12 per cent last year. Press and labour freedom are unprecedented. The judiciary has gained new independence. Torture of political prisoners has virtually ended. The entire country felt a short-lived burst of pride as Seoul hosted the Olympics.

Mr Roh has also made strides in foreign relations. Hungary became the first communist nation to establish full diplomatic relations. Soviet and Chinese trade ties are mushrooming. But the Government has had to cool overheated expectations for reunification following a breakdown in political and military talks with North Korea.

"If you look at the past year, you can say it's been extremely successful," a European diplomat said. "Unfortunately, that's not the way Koreans see it. He can't win. Roh Tae Woo can't win."

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Israeli journalists to be prosecuted

Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Israeli yesterday kept up its defiant refusal to have anything to do with the Palestine Liberation Organization or its chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat, despite swift moving events in the Middle East after this week's visit to Cairo by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Israeli officials said that Israeli journalists who met Mr Arafat in Cairo on Thursday would be prosecuted for breaking Israeli law, which forbids contacts with the PLO.

Israel also claimed yesterday that an infiltration attempt in southern Lebanon by Palestinian extremists — the second such attempt in a

month — was proof that the PLO had not kept its promise to renounce terrorism, and that the US dialogue with the PLO was a grave mistake.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, yesterday returned from Paris vowing that Israel would never talk to the PLO because it did not want peace with Israel.

Nonetheless many Israelis saw the ground-breaking news conference given by Mr Arafat to Israeli reporters in Cairo as part of a process under which the Israeli taboo on contacts with the PLO is being eroded.

The Cairo meeting follows several encounters between dovish Israeli MPs and PLO

leaders of the new party seem set to break up the new alliance.

The ostensible leader is being shown as weak and indecisive, and is unable to hold them together. He is Mr V.P. Singh, who was Mr Gandhi's finance minister, and later defence minister, who left office over his inquiries into corruption and bribery within the Government.

He walked out of one of the long negotiating sessions this

week complaining that he would not be browbeaten by the other members. He was persuaded back inside only after a public display of petulance. The man he was complaining about was Mr Chandra Shekhar. He is a former president of Janata, who has long seen himself as a future prime minister.

The other two battling warlords are Mr Devi Lal, Chief Minister of Haryana, and Mr Ajit Singh, son of a former Prime Minister.

Oslo (Reuters) — King Olav of Norway has pardoned a Dutch prisoner who was bullied by fellow-inmates after a letter confirming he was carrying the Aids virus was posted on the prison noticeboard by mistake.

Desperate act

Peking (Reuters) — A Chinese mother strangled her three-month-old daughter so she could divorce a ferocious husband to whom she had been sold after he raped her, the *Farmers Daily* said.

Reactor alert

Gravelines (AFP) — A section of Europe's largest electro-nuclear plant, situated in this northern French town, was shut down after a minor water leak was discovered in a building housing one of its reactors.

Posers held

Ranghok (AFP) — An American model and her photographer have been arrested for allegedly posing lewdly near a Buddhist shrine, thereby desecrating the shrine.

Budapest moves 'to avoid another 1956'

Hungarian leaders agree to talks on power-sharing coalition

From Sallie Ecroyd, Budapest

After months of indecision over the direction of its political reforms, Hungary's ruling Communist Party has finally plumped for all-out efforts to build a coalition with its opponents.

As proof of the decision, the Central Committee formally agreed this week that the party should surrender the guaranteed "leading role in society" it has enjoyed for the past 40 years, and omit that phrase from the new constitution.

A day later, the Communists launched a programme of negotiations which will bring them face to face with the country's independent groups and newly formed political parties, in an attempt to win allies and agree a formula for power-sharing.

"Our aim is not to hand over power, but to share it," Mr Gyorgy

Fejt, the head of the party's negotiating team, said. "This is not because of our insistence on power, but because there is no other political force in the country which is capable of governing at present."

The negotiations, however, follow implicit recognition that the party itself is no longer capable of governing alone. The independent and opposition groups have exploited months of indecision and hesitant leadership to strengthen their position and seize the initiative in dictating the pace of change.

Earlier this month, the Central Committee responded to their insistent calls for democracy with agreement to make the transition to a multi-party system.

Faced, however, with falling membership and rising discontent at declining living standards, party leaders have no intention of turning next year's elections into a scramble for power. Even the Politburo's most ardent reformer,

Mr Imre Pozsgay, favours elections by national list with the different forces allocated seats under an agreed power-sharing plan.

A "monopolistic and monopolistic" exercise of power over 40 years has left the party, he said, as Moscow (AP) — A Soviet historian, Mr Andranik Migranyan, said in the latest edition of *Moscow News* that his country and Hungary ought to conduct a joint reassessment of the Soviet military intervention that crushed the Hungarian uprising of 1956.

the only force with the means for governing. "In such a situation, free elections would result in chaos. Without conciliation the risk of tension is much too great. And nobody wants to see 1956 again."

Observers now see the coalition as possibly the party's only hope of retaining power at all, without risking a repeat of the 1956

uprising or at least an explosion of overtly hostile opposition.

First signs for co-operation do not look hopeful. The party this year bowed to popular pressure to declare a national holiday on March 15 to mark the 1948 uprising against Austrian domination. But its invitation for the nation to join the celebrations was rebuffed by the main independent group, which swiftly pointed out that up until last year their members had been victims of a police force, authorized to prevent any such commemoration.

Instead the groups announced plans for a separate demonstration, including a march through Parliament Square, the only remaining place in the country where the new right to assembly is expressly withheld.

They have also drawn up a 12-point statement of demands in preparation for the anniversary, which closely echo student de-

mands of 1948 for "free elections, a neutral Hungary and freedom for the people of Eastern and Central Europe". Among the five groups behind them is the Hungarian Democratic Forum whose 15,000 members are thought to be the party's most likely allies.

The opposition refusal to join the party on March 15 is a sign of a much wider reluctance to rush into co-operation.

"The independent groups don't want to lose voters before they've gained them," said one Western diplomat. "They're not prepared to rush straight into bed with the party. They want several dances first."

They also want guarantees that a coalition period would in fact lead to free, Western-style elections in 1995. Those guarantees have not been forthcoming so far.

The party's efforts to retain control, even of a coalition, are not made easier by nagging divisions

within the Politburo. The decision to introduce the multi-party system, however gradually, meant a damaging volte face for the party leader, Mr Karoly Grosz, who had insisted up to the last minute that political pluralism should develop within the framework of a one-party system.

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BRITAIN

Our Robot Division in Rugby responded by supplying COMPARM paint-spraying arms to help speed up production.


And nearly 40 to the Soviets last year alone.

Along the way, we've picked up the Queen's Award for Exports two years running. As well as a Russian award for product excellence.

Closer to home, GEC is also involved in Freight Rover's major paint plant modernisation programme, where our robot systems have been installed.

We're also impressing the Germans, the Dutch, the Swiss and the Belgians with COMPARM.

But then, when it comes to selling arms, GEC is far from conventional.



BRITAIN'S POWERHOUSE

TIMES DIARY

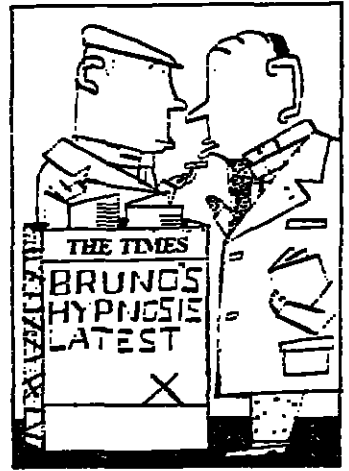
SIMON BARNES

MPs have this week been given an immaculately staged preview of what the world will be like when the identity card comes to football. This fascinating exercise, animated research into the vexed question of whether the technology is up to the vision of 1994, was staged at Westminster underground station, the station our rulers use. Like many other stations, it has installed magic electronic gates which, by presto — provided you insert a valid ticket — swing open to let you through. No valid ticket, the gates stay shut. The age of cheating and fare-dodging, it would seem, is at an end. But at Westminster the machines have been out of order all week. They were kept wide open, enabling people to walk straight through, ticket or no ticket. The more widely travelled MPs will note that the same has happened at other stations using this, as it were, identity card system. A further glimpse into the future was provided by a member of the staff at Westminster tube station, who confided to one man hurrying to the House: "These things never bloody well work. We keep 'em open, because otherwise everybody gets bad-tempered." I wonder if the Orwellian figure of Colin Moynihan, Minister of Sport, aka Little Brother, is watching at Westminster station.

The other week I wrote about pompous golfers (it would surely be unkind to suggest that this is a tautology). Now I hear about pingpong pomposity. The English Table Tennis Association has circulated a letter rebuking Peter Lawson, secretary of the Central Council for Physical Recreation, for a remark attributed to him in a newspaper. He is supposed to have said: "The Sports Council does not organize so much as a pingpong match." The letter expresses all the existential anguish of the table tennis man: pingpong is a "pejorative term", it says, one which "undermines the status of an Olympic sport". Because of Lawson's remarks, the association is wondering whether or not to remain a member of the CCPR. English-speaking athletes play foxy and rugged, which are affectionate diminutives, and I fear that the pingpong lobby does protest too much. Never mind, this is a great game, both to watch and to play, and indeed, this column possesses a devastating forehand loop. This is the column that supports pingpong.

On to the Guatemalan Nordic Skiing team, which has been taking part this week in the Nordic Skiing Championships at Lahti, Finland. The members ran out of money in midweek but received instant sponsorship when Radio City, a Finnish rock and roll station, heard of their problems. At the heart of the seven-man team are the three Burgos brothers, Dag, Rene, Ricardo and Ivare, Guatemalans with a Norwegian mother. "The nearest thing to winter in Guatemala is when I open the fridge," said Ricardo. Dag said: "The first Nordic skiing event I entered was over 50 kilometres. I must have been crazy. It took me four hours. For the last five or ten kilometres there were 70-year-olds carrying big bags and flasks of coffee whizzing past me. Small children, too. I was so embarrassed I tried to hide my race number." The Guatemalans have not been last in everything. In one race they beat a rival Latino, a Mexican. "When we passed him," Ricardo said, "the president of the Guatemalan Olympic Committee was jumping up and down and shouting. At the finish line, he was crying with joy." In the 15km freestyle, the team managed 88th and 89th places out of 91, beating a Greek and a Dane who were disqualified. But in the slalom they were less impressive. One Guatemalan went off course and hit a tree. Ricardo said philosophically: "After every competition we are one less."

BARRY FANTONI



"The plan is to get Frank used to the idea of suddenly being put to sleep"

After I had written about cricket on the ice at St Moritz, Steven Lynch, deputy editor of the magazine *Wisden Cricket Monthly*, tells me that it has not only been done before, but by women, and that the great Charlotte "Lottie" Dod was one of them. Dod won the ladies singles at Wimbledon five times, the first time in 1887, when she was 15. She went to St Moritz in 1894 and was one of the first women to attempt the Cresta Run. She took part in an ice-cricket match between the ladies of St Moritz and those of Davos, and she played in skates. In her opening spell she took five wickets for four runs. Mr Lynch gathered these facts from Max Robertson's book *Wimbledon: Centre Court of the Game*.

Among the many and various problems of the England football team's World Cup qualifying match in Albania next week, there is the question of hair. The government of this most repressive of East European bureaucracies allows neither long hair nor full beards — frightfully *vioux jeu*, but then Albania is not on the cutting edge of modern life. The soccer paper *When Saturday Comes* is organizing a coach party of 50 — with a pre-trip trim before setting off. The editor, John Duncan, says the party will also learn a few words of Albanian to "create the right impression". (What is Albanian for "ere we go")? Judging by the flowing-haired Swedes, who played in Albania recently, it would seem that players are above the law.

In a leader published last July this newspaper warned: "If Mr Ashdown thinks he can see Dr Owen off without disaster to his own party he should think again." As we made clear last autumn at a turbulent meeting in Blackpool, the same advice is equally applicable to both former Alliance partners.

Third and fourth parties, trapped in a first-past-the-post system, must come to terms with one another, just as they need the oxygen of by-election victories to provide the momentum for political progress.

Richmond and Pontypridd, just like Epping Forest and Kensington before them, demonstrate what happens when old friends fall out and when partners become predators preying on each other. A pointless competition for second and third places is about as rational and cost-effective as our members subscribing to Tory funds.

Richmond and Epping could have been landslide victories for the centre. But, as we learned last year, with our forces locked in a fratricidal struggle, it is impossible to replicate the triumphs of Crosby or Bermondsey. By indulging in inter-party annihilation we will doubtless have the opportunity to pay off old scores, but in this war of attrition there will be few survivors and only one beneficiary: Mrs Thatcher.

The voters are becoming increasingly disillusioned with the failure of the opposition to come to terms with the electoral verdict — that no one opposition

party commands sufficient respect to form a government. Millions responded to the Alliance because it represented a genuine attempt to seek partnership and co-operation across the political divide. Its support of proportional representation underlined that conviction. It is downright hypocritical to advocate proportional representation but not then to accept the inter-party co-operation which is part and parcel of that system. We are not advocating a return to the old Alliance formula. The position of the Labour Party is now central to the new thinking which is required. It is paradoxical that just at the time when increasing numbers of Labour MPs are recognizing

the need to seek agreement between the opposition parties, and are examining the case for electoral reform, we at the centre have abandoned the patient and deliberate role of catalyst. Instead of continuing the realignment of politics we are merely indulging in internecine warfare and petty wrangling.

This simply will not wash. Political leaders are not infallible, and strategy must be open to review. Futile trench warfare will lead to even more casualties on both sides. It takes real courage to admit a mistake and to seek negotiations rather than a bloody fight to the finish. Our two parties should now do this. First, let them agree to non-aggression pacts for the Euro-

elections in June and come to sensible arrangements for local government elections. Then they must seek a dialogue with all those in the Labour Party who are prepared to work with us to deny the Tories a fourth term. The first priority would be to explore common ground, the next to develop an agreed programme for government, and the third objective must be to see whether such a meeting of minds might lead to candidates standing down in one another's favour, as Labour's John Evans recently advocated. If this was a mere expedient it would have no chance of succeeding, but the Labour party's policy review and a new willingness makes such a position intellectually credible.

There is room for considerable agreement. Thinking in all parties is moving toward the need for a new constitutional settlement, for a balanced defence and disarmament policy, for good stewardship in using national resources, for defending such prized assets as the NHS, and to encouraging enterprise in a free society. Broadly, this is an approach acceptable to 60 per cent of the electorate, but which cannot be delivered by any opposition party on its own.

Together, the three opposition parties have made common cause against the Government on water privatization, the bypassing of local democracy, the poll tax, commercialization of

Unite, and victory is ours



After the Richmond by-election, David Alton (left) and John Cartwright, members of the former Alliance parties, urge an electoral pact — and a link with like-minded Labour MPs — to deny the Tories a fourth term. Dennis Kavanagh (below) assesses Richmond's implications for all parties



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TOWER POLITICS

In 200 years only eight presidential nominees to the Cabinet have been rejected by the Senate. If Senator John Tower's rejection by the Armed Services Committee is endorsed by the full gathering of his former colleagues next week, President Bush will become only the sixth US President to suffer this rebuff to his authority, and the first to do so for 30 years.

The President's authority is 99 per cent of what the Tower hearings have been about. The Democrat-dominated committee, chaired by the chimerical Georgian, Mr Sam Nunn, has done its best to turn Senator Tower's alleged problems with women, wine, and defence contractors into reasons for denying him the stewardship of the Pentagon. Although substance to the charges is still lacking, Senator Tower, one of the President's closest aides, can now be freely described in Washington as a liability whom Mr Bush would be best advised to abandon.

The President has no sensible alternative but to reject this advice — as he did forcefully from Tokyo yesterday. He has put out his "offered hand" to his Congressional opponents — and they have pushed it back in his face. They have done so at a time when he is out of the country and in the most difficult position from which to fight a lobbying campaign to secure a majority for his nominee.

This is part of a bigger battle which he had hoped to avoid so early. He had hoped to build a coalition for his policies on Capitol Hill in his own time and in the co-operative spirit of his inauguration speech. Instead, as was always the more likely course, he has to persuade Democratic senators to back a key presidential decision in an atmosphere of rising rancour and with his own Congressional lobbyists barely installed in their offices.

The stakes are high for both sides. The exact role of the Senate in confirming presidential appointees has been a disputed issue since 1787. But while, for example, the Senate's rejection of nominations to the Supreme Court has been a regular part of relations between the rival branches of government, a vote against a Cabinet member has been very rare. Of the eight cases, four took place under one President — John Tyler, the President-without-a-party who never won election in his own right.

The two most recent cases were both, like Senator Tower, conservatives whose business interests were considered suspect. Corruption in all areas of government must be kept at bay. But there has grown up a clear double standard in the way that elected officials can even boast of the public money they have brought to their

areas with their votes, while White House appointments have to avoid even the apparent possibility of conflict of interest.

Presidents have come to treat this as an irritating normality. But in the 30 years since the rejection of Eisenhower's Commerce Secretary, Mr Lewis Strauss, Congressional success in turning this advantage into practical politics has been limited. Defeat for Senator Tower could mark a turn of the tide.

The particular case for the Defence Secretary-designate is clear enough. He may not be a sufficiently perfect human being for Senator Nunn's committee. But he understands both the need for strong defence and the means to procure that defence at an affordable price. Those qualities are not easy to replicate.

He is a former senator, a former chairman of the committee which has now rejected him; he well understands which high-employing defence plants are in place only to bring votes for politicians. As they say in Washington, he is one of the few who know where the pork barrel is buried.

He is a conservative who was closely identified with the foreign policy successes of the past eight years. The new President owes him clear political debts. But Mr Bush has to make it plain that he rejects the agenda of his opponents in which those facts are necessary handicaps to nomination.

Moreover, while the Pentagon is without a leader, difficult and dangerous problems are mounting. There are the divisions over the future nature of US strategic weapons. General Brent Scowcroft, the National Security Adviser, favours the single-warhead Midgetman which would be deployed in trucks. Opposing forces in the Defence Department favour the deployment of the 10-warhead MX missile in railway wagons.

Congress is chafing over the equivocal response of the West Germans to the replacement of the short-range Lance missile. No one from the Pentagon, it appears, has been delegated to lobby on Capitol Hill for the funding that this programme requires if political momentum in Europe is to be maintained.

For all these reasons it is important that the President and his senior staff turn some of their attention away from the attractions of the East to the sights and sounds at home. But the biggest reason is that Mr Tower has become a key section of the old battered fence which separates White House powers from those of Capitol Hill. If he is swept aside, he will leave a gap through which many greedier than Senator Nunn will gallop.

A SHOCK FOR THE CENTRE

It has long been clear that in any seat in which the Conservatives could be defeated by centre but not by Labour politics, victory would be thrown away if the Social Democrats and the Democrats stood against each other. This is not a healthy state of affairs for a democracy which requires effective opposition and the availability of an alternative government.

If, however, the Tories were opposed by a single party holding broadly the political position of Dr David Owen, which is itself not all that far in practice from that of Mr Paddy Ashdown, or even, perhaps, that of Mr Bryan Gould, Mrs Thatcher could be in trouble. At Richmond she has suffered a virtual defeat at the hands of the centre parties but has been handed a victory by what is now largely a personal feud.

The centre parties now are under a sentence of permanent impotence by the refusal of Mr Paddy Ashdown to countenance any kind of an electoral understanding with Dr Owen. The question now is what political substance lies behind this obduracy.

Dr Owen's original refusal to merge with the Liberals in the shot-gun marriage engineered by Mr Steel was justified. Mr Steel's way of trying to balance the sixties' social democratic reflexes with the anarchic impulses of the old Liberal left would have undermined Dr Owen's realistic post-Thatcherite attitudes.

But much has since changed. Mr Steel has gone, the influx of Social Democrats into the SLD has altered its balance and the old Liberal left has gone quiet. To the extent that Mr Ashdown has anything clear to say about politics, it has an Owenite tinge.

Indeed, part of his resistance to any kind of

talking with Dr Owen may arise from a fear that the SDP leader would outshine him in any new association. That, however, is no longer an affordable luxury.

Mr Ashdown himself recently, vaguely and unconvincingly suggested a "common agenda" around which Mrs Thatcher's foes could unite. He also declared against "cynical pacts" with Labour, arguing that this would lead to the defection of Democrat voters "in droves" — which is true.

But he also virtually dismissed an understanding with the SDP on the grounds that it would be finished as a political force by the end of the year. This is plainly wrong. The two centre parties now have to think again.

As for the major parties, Richmond leaves them where they were. Mr Kinnock must fight his battle against his left, with the outcome still unknown. Mrs Thatcher must contend with lost popularity coming not only from mid-term reversion but from public suspicion of water privatization and NHS re-structuring.

The Government's greatest risk, however, is in the re-emergence of inflation. Its reduction was Mrs Thatcher's most precious achievement. But the side-effects of subduing it again could be painful. The Government faces a period of highly sensitive public relations and must justify its policies convincingly.

Mrs Thatcher could, of course, say of Pontypriid that she does not grudge Mr Kinnock his victory in a rock-hard Labour seat and of Richmond that if this kind of pattern is reproduced right up to the last election she has nothing to worry about. But victories that depend on opponents' weakness are never safe.

AGENDA FOR MR ANNESLEY

The office of Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, to be occupied by Mr Hugh Annesley of the Metropolitan Police in May, has been accurately described as the hardest police job in Europe. Its less attractive aspects include responsibility for order and safety in a deeply divided community, incessant political criticism from several directions at once, a well-rooted, trained and equipped terrorist group at large and unusual physical risk.

The business of policing in Northern Ireland has changed during two decades. The force has become larger, more professional and more successful. Army security operations are subsidiary to the police. Public disturbance has been reduced to token outbreaks. Counter-terrorism work is concentrated on fewer, tougher targets. The chief task of the province's senior policeman is to give practical expression to the assertion that terrorism cannot win.

In pursuit of that aim, there are two tasks to which the new Chief Constable could profitably give special priority. The first is the pressing need for greater clarity in the legal and operational rules governing the use of lethal force by policemen (and soldiers).

The continuing saga of the fatal shootings in 1982 and the subsequent Stalker-Sampson investigation has left an unpleasant taste. To have a Cabinet minister admit in the House of Commons that there was evidence to suggest conspiracy to pervert the course of justice but that there would be no prosecution does little for public faith in the rule of law.

So long as there are terrorists who carry arms, those protecting the rest of society may

have to do the same. There will be times when they have to decide whether to use lethal force. A Chief Constable who embarked on a policy of demonstrating that this grey area could be better illuminated would do his force a service.

The second area of importance is the relationship between the police forces on either side of the border. One of the most significant, but least visible, cross-border links strengthened by the Anglo-Irish Agreement was the exchange of information, expertise and technology between the RUC and the Garda Síochána. The last few months have seen a noticeable improvement in the quality and quantity of intelligence used by the Garda.

To some extent, however, this intelligence has only reinforced a grim conclusion about the quantities of arms received by the IRA. It may not have been able to exploit all its opportunities to use this material, but its very acquisition underlines the importance of police contacts across borders. The quality of these contacts depend greatly on the personal diplomacy between the Chief Constable in the North and the Commissioner in the South.

The maintenance of this relationship requires both men to apply all their skill to keeping their work out of the political arena. Sentiment in the Republic at present objects to the authorities being seen to be too eagerly helpful to Britain. It looks likely to remain that way at least for the duration of Mr Haughey's Government. The less the two senior policemen become entangled in the political disagreement that will arise from this breakdown of the Hillsborough spirit, the more effective their policing is likely to be.

Putting paid to germs in water

From Mr J. V. White

Sir, The latest outbreak of legionella in London prompts me to report that advances in the technology of water filtration have produced products which can help to reduce significantly the risk of the bacillus *Legionella pneumophila* in water systems.

Every day an average cooling tower collects up to five kilograms of solid matter consisting of atmospheric dust, pollen, insects, etc., which provide nutrients and breeding sites for the bacillus. The use of effective filtration to remove this debris increases the effectiveness of the chemical biocides, thereby avoiding the need for excessive dosages. Maintaining these higher standards of system cleanliness also helps prevent heat-exchanger fouling, thereby saving energy as an additional benefit.

Hitherto these filters have required constant attention to remove the collected solids. The recent developments have resulted in a filter which regularly back-flushes itself, automatically discharging the waste material. Yours faithfully, J. V. WHITE (Technical Director), Henley Park, Guildford, Surrey, February 20.

Water quality

From the Master of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers

Sir, I read with complete agreement the letter (February 21) from the Chief Executive and Secretary of the Institute of Plumbing, our company, in common with most livery companies and contrary to popular belief, is still deeply involved in the craft from which we sprang, by means of technical seminars, close involvement with City and Guilds qualifications, gold medals to outstanding apprentices etc.

Just over 100 years ago we set up the Register of Qualified Plumbers. The task, having got beyond us some years ago, was taken over by the Institute of Plumbing. During the past century we have continued to press and lobby for compulsory registration of plumbers to ensure that they are qualified to practise their craft, and successive governments of all persuasions have failed to react.

Though gas is supplied to many homes and factories it is by no means universal and yet the installers of gas-fed equipment are required by law to be qualified.

Water, on the other hand, finds its way into every single home, factory, hotel, community and conference centre in the land, including air-conditioning systems. And yet water-fed equipment can legally be installed by people with no more qualifications than a bag of tools. It really does seem incredible.

Let us hope that the current interest in the purity of water will at last persuade the Government to introduce the simple legislation needed to exclude unqualified people from tampering with it. Yours faithfully, JOHN LEA, Master, Worshipful Company of Plumbers, Ironmongers' Hall, Barbican, EC2, February 21.

Maritime museum

From the Director of the National Maritime Museum

Sir, Attractive though the conspiracy theory always is, I am afraid I must correct David Walker's Diary piece on the National Maritime Museum (February 21).

Firstly, there are no plans for privatising the National Maritime Museum. Secondly, though we do, in line with other museums, charge for reproduction of ships' plans, historic photographs and other archival material (and have always done so), we do not charge for using our reference library, nor for personal or telephone enquiries.

Finally, though we have embarked on a five-year programme of major exhibitions, this does not mean that the permanent galleries are being ignored. In fact next month we open our latest new gallery, on the Ship of War, 1650-1815, which contains the NMM's unique collection of 18th-century dockyard ship models. Yours faithfully, RICHARD ORMOND, Director, National Maritime Museum, Park Row, Greenwich, SE10, February 21.

V & A reforms

From Dr Wolfgang Fischer

Sir, Professor Christopher Frayling (February 20) asks why I do not consider making a direct donation to the Victoria and Albert Museum instead of sponsoring a campaign against its projected re-organization. I would have thought it was obvious to anybody that one would not give money to an institution in whose management one has no confidence.

He also says that he finds it unsettling that this campaign is being organized by a commercial art gallery. Being an art dealer does not prevent me from being an art historian who is deeply concerned with the welfare of one of the Western world's greatest art institutions. I am proud to lend all the facilities that my gallery can offer to this important campaign. Yours etc., WOLFGANG FISCHER, Fischer Fine Art, 30 King Street, SW1.

Rights and wrongs in the NHS

From Mr Myrddin Rees

Sir, A great deal is written in these columns on what is right and wrong in the National Health Service. I would like to illustrate both points.

I have just finished my all-day operating list, during which I removed major cancers in four patients and a dissected gall-bladder in a young man. The anaesthetist started an hour early, the theatre girls agreed to work through their lunch break and though we finished an hour past our allocated time, nobody complained and we all felt pleased with a good day's work.

Next week, my allocated operating time has been cancelled because my anaesthetist is on a well-deserved annual leave. Despite a few surgical truntings, reminiscent of Mr James Robertson's decision stands. Apparently, the regional health authority has decreed that there will be no locum anaesthetists employed to cover absences or annual leave.

There is no doubt that this latest money saving manoeuvre will help balance the deficit of underfunding the acute unit in our district. Meanwhile, patients on my waiting list wait longer. May I, through you Sir, offer them an apology and an explanation. Yours faithfully, MYRDDIN REES (Consultant Surgeon), Basingstoke District Hospital, Aldershot Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, February 16.

From the Editor of *Medeconomics* Sir, The Prime Minister's account of the first major survey of family doctors' reactions to the NHS White Paper, *Working for Patients*, in the House of Commons (Parliamentary Report, February 24) gave an inaccurate picture of UK GPs' response to the Government's proposed changes.

Mrs Thatcher appeared to overlook the replies sent in by some 2,000 GPs to a survey carried out by *Medeconomics* following publication of the White Paper, details of which had been presented to Mr Kenneth Clarke, with a copy later to the Department of Health library, at his request.

The total number of replies we received was 2,862 (80 per cent of which said the changes would not improve patient services) not 893 as the Prime Minister implied. Yours faithfully, ANN WARBURTON, Editor, *Medeconomics*, Haymarket Medical Publications Ltd, 30 Lancaster Gate, W2, February 24.

Belief in the Bar

From Mr David Martin, MP for Portsmouth South (Conservative)

Sir, The cause of the Bar in response to the Government's proposed reforms of the legal profession is being done immense harm by the explosive public overstatements of the senior judiciary. Added to those of Lord Donaldson (report, February 11) and Lord Lane (February 16), we now have Lord Ackner's reported opinion (February 22) that the Government is, no less, "hell bent on the destruction of the Bar".

The law lords have immense privileges in putting their considered reactions strongly at the highest level and being listened to with respect. Their misjudgements in frittering away such influence by blunderbuss diplomacy do grave damage to the cause of measured and responsible reform by many people — barristers included — would like to see. Yours faithfully, DAVID MARTIN, House of Commons, February 24.

Anastasia anecdote

From Mr Jeremy Hornsby

Sir, I last saw the picture of the Grand Duchess Anastasia, which you carried on your front page (February 11) in 1958; the address was 17 Robert Street, a seedy and dilapidated row of Regency houses running off Camden Road, opposite the Temperance Hospital; my situation was that of student at University College London, just half the length of Gower Street away; and the landlord of 17 Robert Street, home to myself and half a dozen fellow students, was Charles Sidney Gibbs (English tutor to the Grand Duchess Anastasia).

The difference was that we all knew him as Father Nicholas, since he had by then become an archimandrite in the Russian Orthodox Church. It was at this time that Anna Andersen was attempting to be recognised as Anastasia — a claim Father Nicholas always strenuously denied, in spite of the fleets of gleaming Mercedes which would arrive at our somewhat dismal milieu to cart him off to the latest

court hearing. It was on one of these occasions that he showed me the photograph, to support his contention, although of course I could make no judgement from it at all.

He lived in a tiny room, divided into two by some hardboard nailed to battens, with an opening from the outer to the inner sanctum. In the outer — perhaps eight feet by four — stood a large stove in which a huge saucenpan of cabbage water was forever on the boil. In the inner, of similar size, a bed of hard planks, covered by coarse blankets, sat beneath the window, and Father Nicholas perched at the end of it.

We were frequently late with the rent, for which Father Nicholas could happily be mollified by a couple of hours of chat; though if we got too far behind, arrears would swiftly be made up upon the arrival of Peter, whom we understood to be Father Nicholas.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number (01)782 5046.

Grim days for literature

From Professor George Steiner

Sir, These are grim days for literature. The Rushdie affair is taking on aspects of murderous lunacy. Vaclav Havel is, once again, incarcerated in Prague (report, February 22). Thomas Bernhard, the master of German prose after Kafka and Camus, has died at a relatively early age and in bitter isolation (obituary, February 17).

Time will judge the stature or defects of Rushdie's fiction. Havel's plays and prison letters will live when the names of their censors and of the police thugs who seek to suppress them are forgotten. Bernhard's dark parables will be read and studied when his detractors, Mr Waldheim so brazenly among them, have been "pulped" by moral history.

But time is a slow healer and poor paymaster. In the meanwhile, these writers (and so many others) suffer danger, deprivation, and loneliness.

Serious literature explores human possibility and "bodies forth" those alternative worlds without which our sense of the present and our metaphors for the future would be barren.

We tend to take for granted the risks and sorrows entailed by the writer's profession. We tend to forget that the great majority of novelists, poets, and playwrights labour under conditions of political, economic, or psychological stress of the most coercive sort.

We give little heed to the stress on those who serve literature in their modest ways — the teachers, the editors of "minority" texts, the independent booksellers and the men and women who translate.

The life of the imagination cannot (perhaps it should not) be too readily safeguarded or reconditioned. But there are times when its central importance ought to be clearly recognized.

Sincerely, GEORGE STEINER, University of Geneva, Department of English Language and Literature, 22 Boulevard des Philosophes, Geneva, Switzerland, February 21.

Europe's future

From Mr Austin Arnold

Sir, The debate in your correspondence columns concerning the future shape of Europe (February 8, 13) is being conducted mainly in terms of economics and politics. The cultural dimension receives little mention. However, the degree to which ordinary people can identify with Europe, in addition to their own country, is likely to affect the willingness to co-operate in economic and political matters.

Surely it is time for the European Community to take some bold and imaginative steps to enhance the sense of a European identity. What about, for example, the creation of a European Open University, along the lines of Britain's Distance-learning has shown gratifying results in the latter case, and a distance-learning scheme for the Commonwealth is under study.

A European Open University would increase understanding of the different cultural traditions that make up the European heritage. Yours truly, AUSTIN ARNOLD, Route de Jura, 1261 La Rippe, Vaud, Switzerland, February 15.

Business and media

From Mr Simon Clark

Sir, Your Media Editor, Richard Evans, reports (February 20) that the Campaign for Quality Television wants a register to be compiled of the business interests of television news and current affairs staff, similar to the register of MPs' business interests.

Where MPs are concerned, however, at least we know their political interests and biases. If television news and current affairs staff were obliged to declare their political affiliations and commitments on the proposed new register, then information of value to the viewing public really would be revealed.

Yours faithfully, SIMON CLARK (Director, Media Monitoring Unit), 201 Holland Park Avenue, W11, February 22.

las's son, and half-Russian, and therefore to be watched. Peter would come and chat to us. He always seemed to have a very large knife in his hand.

But Father Nicholas, in his flowing beard and his solid black robes, sat happily typing away. On the wall behind him hung six magnificent icons. They were, he told me, the last presents that the Russian Royal Family gave him before he left them at Ekaterinburg — a long way from his native Yorkshire.

On each of the icons, long silvers of black oil had run down to deface the remarkable artistry. "That", said Father Nicholas, on more than one occasion, "is the spirits of the Czar and his family making their presence known through the icons".

I thought it had a lot to do with the cabbage water, bubbling away and filling the room with steam. But I never said so.

Yours faithfully, JEREMY HORNSBY, 55 de Beauvoir Road, N1, February 16.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 24: The Queen visited the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles at Church Crookham today.

Having been received by Brigadier R.A. Pett (Colonel of the Regiment), Lieutenant-Colonel D.M. McK. Briggs (Commanding Officer) and Major Chintabhadra Gurung (Gurkha Major), Her Majesty toured the barracks and viewed training demonstrations.

The Queen visited the Warrent Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and subsequently honoured the Commanding Officer with her presence at lunch in the Officers' Mess.

In the afternoon Her Majesty visited the Gurkha Museum and watched a display of martial arts and Nepalese folk dances.

The Hon Mary Morrison, Mr Kenneth Scott, Rear-Admiral David Allen and Commander Timothy Laurence, RN, were in attendance.

The Queen was represented by the Duke of Edinburgh at the State Funerals of the Emperor of Japan, which were held in Shinjuku Gyoen, Tokyo, this morning.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 24: The Princess of Wales visited the Midway Mission Hospital, Bethnal Green, E2.

Mrs George West and Lieutenant Commander Patrick Jephson, RN, were in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester has become President of the British-Nepal Society for three years.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr John Arlott, cricket commentator, 75; Miss Elkie Brooks, singer, 44; Mr Anthony Burgess, novelist and critic, 72; Mr Tom Courtenay, actor, 52; Lord Crichton, 55; Professor Mary Douglas, anthropologist, 68; Sir Antony Duff, diplomat, 69; Sir Alexander Gordon, architect, 72; George Harrison, former Beatle, 46; Dr Harvey McGregor, QC, 63; Sir Ian Wallace, former Ombudsman, 75; Mr Robert Neame, brewer, 55; Lord Justice Parker, 66; Mr David Putnam, film producer, 48; the Right Rev Dr J.A. Ramsbottom, former Bishop of Wakefield, 83; Professor S.R. Sutherland, principal, King's College London, 48; Mr A.C.F. Verity, Master, Dulwich College, 50; Sir Ian Wallace, company chairman, 73; Marshall of the RAF Sir Keith Williamson, 61.

TOMORROW: Lord Bridge of Harwich, 72; Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, solicitor, 75; Mr Johnny Cash, singer, 57; Sir Peter Cazalet, deputy chairman, BP, 60; Mr David Edgar, playwright, 41; Mr Justice Farquharson, 61; Sir James Goldsmith, company chairman, 56; Dr B.J. Greenhill, author, 69; Miss Emma Kirby, soprano, 40; Mr John Lister, chairman, British Shipbuilders, 58; Captain John Noel, photographer and mountaineer, 99; Mr W.R. Price, former chairman, Vauxhall Motors, London, 63; Mr Gerald Priestland, broadcaster and author, 62; Mr E.D. Weekes, cricketer, 64.

Today's royal engagement

Prince Edward will attend a concert organised by the Rhodes Foundation Scholarship Trust at the Manchester Free Trade Hall at 7.25.

Mr Percy Hoskins

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Percy Hoskins, former Chief Crime Reporter of the *Daily Express*, will be held on March 24 at St Bride's, Fleet Street, at noon. Canon John Oates will officiate and Mr Michael Foot, MP, will give an address.

Clifford Longley

Making peace with Muslims

Even if the law of blasphemy were to be expanded to cover non-Christian religions, it is hard to imagine an English jury convicting Salman Rushdie for his *Satanic Verses*. It is too subtle and theological an assault to expect a jury of passengers on the Clapham omnibus to take the true measure of it. Blasphemy is a very slippery concept.

That does not make the libel any less pernicious, and may indeed make it more so. As well as feeling that their deepest religious feelings have been affronted, Muslims - in Britain at least - also feel the frustration of not being understood and supported by the larger community. An acquittal after a blasphemy trial would, from that point of view, have made a bad matter worse.

Because few non-Muslims have been able to grasp why Rushdie's obscure and surreal parody on the life of Muhammad has offended them so much, there has been a profound failure of empathy in the majority British response to their protests. And thanks to the Ayatollah Khomeini's death threats, British Muslims also find themselves branded as alien extremists and fanatics.

The worst thing that could happen to them now would be for some Iranian agent or British Muslim hot-head to succeed in carrying out the Ayatollah's sentence. The entire community of one million or more Muslims would find British society as a whole, with whom their relationship is in any case not yet comfortable, turning its back on them in cold hostility.

The presence of Muslims in Britain in such numbers had, even before this crisis, already begun to resemble a monumental and somewhat precarious experiment in community tolerance which will call upon the very best qualities of both communities if it is not to end in tears. So far the Rushdie affair has brought out the worst qualities on both sides, and in that respect at least it may truly be described as satanic. But agreement would go no further than that. The devil, in non-Muslim eyes, is the Ayatollah; in Muslim eyes, Rushdie. The two views could not be further apart.

There is, nevertheless, still time for conciliation. The state of British law on religious defamation is far from satisfactory, and it needs urgently to be reformed. To do so quite deliberately as a result of the *Satanic Verses* furore would be a fair and British response. But neither the widening of the present criminal law of blasphemy, nor such convulsed, nor any law aimed only at preventing threats to public order, will meet the case.

A better answer would be to proceed by analogy with the law of libel with its test of "hatred, ridicule and contempt"; and to make an exception to the general principle that it is not possible to libel the dead by deeming, for legal purposes, the revered founders of major religions to be still alive - as their followers do in fact believe they are.

Such a law would have to name them; and clearly Jesus Christ and the Prophet Muhammad would be at the top of the list. And such a law would meet the need far better than the concept of blasphemy, for it would redress the offence where the real sting lies, namely the imputation of sexual impurity or other dishonour, against such persons as Christ or Muhammad. As to the prosecutor, it should be the Attorney General. As to the penalty, it should be a fine and confiscation of the offending material. And as to the jury: it could readily grasp the concept of the libel of a supposedly living person, simply by asking itself how it would find if the person were alive now, and a holy and revered member of society now.

God is above being insulted. So, in truth, are Christ and Muhammad. But because their followers feel so personally close to them - a feeling properly described as love - any insult to their name or honour is a wound to a follower's deepest feelings for which the law ought to offer a remedy. If a physical wound is a criminal assault, an emotional and spiritual wound should be too. The analogy with libel is entirely appropriate, for the sort of stunts that most defame the living also most defame

the dead. For Christians, Christ is not dead; for Muslims, nor is Muhammad. Blasphemy, on the other hand, is either too abstract or too subjective a concept.

Such a move to calm Muslim feelings would bind the Muslim community more closely into British society, which is the only way it is ever going to prosper. But it must look to its own state of health as well. The outside manipulation of Muslim affairs in Britain, including the funding of rival British groups by rival Arab nations, is one of the most dangerous features of the British Muslim scene.

The role of Arab ambassadors as trustees and patrons of important British Muslim institutions should end, and the Regent's Park Mosque and Islamic Centre, originally founded as a gesture of British goodwill, should revert to home Muslim control. The flow of imams into Britain from abroad is a further channel of manipulation and confusion; it is in everyone's interests that the spiritual leaders of British mosques should know and thoroughly understand British society and culture - they should not have arrived yesterday via Heathrow.

Instead the presence of such outside influence and leadership is a barrier to the proper development of an indigenous British Muslim leadership, and in the longer term, a truly British Muslim culture and spirituality. That may suit foreign interests, but it suits neither Britain as a nation nor the mass of British Muslims. They are being held back in a state of dependence, and it must sadly be added, of ignorance. And if this essential transition from outside dependence is costly and painful, the British community at large has so much at stake in its success it should be wise enough to lend its aid in every way possible.

How British Islam takes its shape in the future is a matter for British Islam alone to decide, not for the rest of Britain; but nor is it the proper business of Iranian ayatollahs, Pakistani political parties, Arab oil rich princes, or Colonel Gaddafi.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.J. Butler
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs P.J. Butler, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Elaine, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs J. Booth, of Evershott, Dorset, and Mrs G.R. Usber, of Wyckville, Cleveland.

Mr J.R. Crommelin
The engagement is announced between James, only son of the late Mr Geoffrey Crommelin and of Mrs Crommelin, of Nettlebridge, Somerset, and Lisa, only daughter of Mr and Mrs William Stock, of Peasdown St John, Avon.

Mr J.M. Crookall
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, youngest son of Mr and Mrs D.E. Crookall, and Nina, daughter of Dr and Mrs M.K.B. Molyneux, both of Nantwich, Cheshire.

Mr M.J. Daniels
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs P.E. Naylor, of Wheatthampstead, Hertfordshire, and Bridget, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D.C. Benfield, of Laleham-on-Thames, Middlesex.

Dr J.H.W. Engler
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, youngest son of Mr Bernard Engler, of Altrincham, Cheshire, and Lydia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Peters, of Southport, Lancashire.

Mr J.P. Humphrey
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Paul, second son of Mr and Mrs D.M. Humphrey, of Ichen Abbas House, Winchester, and Antonia Mary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A.B. Campbell, of Grainston, Dunblane, Perthshire.

Mr M.L. Johnson
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.W.F. Johnson, of Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, and Elaine, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs J. Burton, of Kings Heath, Birmingham.

Mr R.D. Lacey
The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs D.R. Lacey, of Swanton, North Humberdale, and Caroline, daughter of Mrs C.A. Barker, of Cottingham, North Humberdale, and the late Mr P. Bust.

Mr M.N. Martin
The engagement is announced between Matthew Nichols, youngest son of Dr and Mrs G.H. Martin, of Finsbury, and Laura Susan, daughter of Mrs J.M. McLaren, of Haverthwaite, Cumbria.

Dr M.J. Naylor
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs P.E. Naylor, of Wheatthampstead, Hertfordshire, and Bridget, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D.C. Benfield, of Laleham-on-Thames, Middlesex.

Dr P.M. Sweeney
The engagement is announced between Peter, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Sweeney, of Ealing, London, and Ingrid, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Koolhoven, of Chaldon, Surrey.

Mr D.J. Swinson
The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Swinson, of Woodstock, Oxfordshire, and Antonia Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Mason, of Hamstead Garden Suburb, London.

Mr S.C.F. Tarpie
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs K.J. Turpin, of Bramley, Surrey, and Amanda Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs B.R. Verstage, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr D.R. White
The engagement is announced between Duncan Richard, son of Dr and Mrs P. White, of Dunstonsbourne Rous, Gloucestershire, and Lesley, daughter of Mr and Mrs K.J. Pounting, of Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Mr T.K. Gardner
The marriage took place on Friday, February 24, at Newton Abbot, between Thomas, only son of Mrs I.P. Gardner, and elder daughter of Mrs J.M. McLaren, of Haverthwaite, Cumbria, and the late Mr W.H. Ash.

Mr R.H. Wells
The marriage took place on Saturday, February 18, at the Temple Church, Inner Temple, of Richard Harry Wells, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Wells, of Angela Delia, a Mosley, Messener, eldest daughter of the late Mr John Measures and of Mrs Measures, Canon Robinson officiated.

The bride was given away by her brother, Mr Charles Measures, and attended by Buzell Thomson, Holly Cole-Hawkins, Johnny Wrisdale, Clementine and William Jepson-Turner and Emma Pywell. Mr Victor Beamish was best man.

The wedding was held at the Inner Temple and the honeymoon in Kenya and Switzerland.

Dinner

John Carpenter Club
The annual reunion dinner of the Royal Hampshire Regiment, attended by a dinner given by Brigadier R.G. Long, Colonel of the Regiment, and Officers of the Royal Hampshire Regiment, at the Serle's House, Winchester, last night.

Pembroke Yeomanry
Colonel W.P. Howells presided at the annual reunion dinner of the Pembroke Yeomanry held last night at the Officers' Mess, RAC Ranges, Castle Martin, to mark the anniversary of the surrender of the French invaders at Fishguard.

Royal Engineers
Colonel O.C. Radford presided at the annual dinner of the Royal Engineers (Transportation) held last night at Brunton Barracks, Chatham.

Appointments
Latest appointments include: Air Vice-Marshal M. J. Graydon to be Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, RAF Support Command, in the rank of Air Marshal from April 5. He will succeed Air Marshal Sir John Sutton, who is retiring from the service.

Mr Andrew Billington to be Director of the Winged Fellowship Trust, which provides holidays for the disabled, from February 1.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: Giovanni Morgani, physician, Forlì, Italy, 1682; Carlo Goldoni, dramatist, Venice, 1707; Pierre Renoir, Impressionist painter, Limoges, France, 1841; Enrico Caruso, tenor, Naples, 1873; Dame Myra Hess, pianist, London, 1890.

DEATHS: Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, soldier and courtier, executed, London, 1601; Albrecht von Wallenstein, soldier and statesman, Eger, Germany, 1634; Sir Christopher Wren, London, 1723; Thomas Moore, poet, Bromham, Wiltshire, 1852; George Don, naturalist, London, 1856; Paul Julius von Reuter, founder of the news agency, Nice, 1899; Sir John Tenniel, illustrator and cartoonist, London, 1914; George Minot, physician, Nobel laureate, Boston, Massachusetts, 1950; Alexander Archipenko, sculptor, New York, 1964; Mark Rothko, painter, New York, 1970.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: Victor Hugo, Besancon, France, 1802; William Frederick (Chaffee) Bull, Scott County, Iowa, 1846; Frank Bridge, composer, Brighton, 1879.

DEATHS: Thomas d'Urfey, London, 1722; Giuseppe Tartini, composer, Padua, 1770; John Philip Kemble, actor-manager, Lausanne, 1823; Alois Senefelder, inventor of lithography, Munich, 1834; Emil Coue, psychotherapist, Troyes, France, 1857; Sir Harry Lauder, Strathaven, 1950; Levi Eshkol, prime minister of Israel 1963-69, Jerusalem, 1969; Karl Jaspers, Existentialist philosopher, Basel, 1969.

Napoleon escaped from Elba, 1815. The steamer Birkenhead was wrecked off Cape Colony, 485 lives were lost, 1852.

Latest wills
Professor Archibald Leman Cochran, of Rhosce, South Glamorgan, epidemiologist, formerly of the Welsh National School of Medicine, left estate valued at £656,702 net. After various bequests he left half the residue of the estate to Green College, Oxford.

Mrs Douglas Cascoigne Hogg, of Whitechurch, on Thame, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £2,268,540 net. He left his estate mostly to his wife and issue.

Mrs Jeannine Emilie Wetherell, of Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £1,625,203 net.

Other estates include (net before tax paid): Mr Kenneth Percival Aldridge, of Guildford, Surrey, retired insurance inspector... £728,031.

Mr William Henry Cundell Blake, of Cusack, Devon, civil engineering contractor's manager... £698,054.

Mr Michael Joshua Howard, of Birkdale, Merseyside, £547,513.

Mr Steven Daniel McDonald, of Chigwell, Essex... £729,122.

Mrs Gwendoline Mary Robinson, of Patney, Devon, Wiltshire... £893,262.

OBITUARIES

WING CDR PAUL RICHEY

Air combat against odds in the Battle of France



Battle bombers of the RAF against the fighters of the Luftwaffe, as they attempted to deny the use of bridges and river crossings to the Wehrmacht.

Wing Commander Paul Richey, DFC and Bar, who died on February 23 at the age of 72, was the author of one of the earliest and most successful books to come out of the Second World War. *Fighter Pilot*, a personal record of No 1 Squadron's heroic feats against odds during the Battle of France in May 1940.

The book, first appeared in September, 1941, in the aftermath of the Battle of Britain, an aerial contest which has unfortunately tended to eclipse the remarkable effort made by the pilots who went sent to France to fight overwhelming numbers of the enemy from foreign airfields with a German army breathing down their throats.

It appeared in the United States, before America's entry into the war, in a version in which the anonymity of the author and of his fellow pilots, hitherto identified only by nicknames, was broken for the first time.

Owing to severe injuries Richey was forced to spend more time out of combat than he would have liked. Nevertheless he performed some remarkable feats, and an iron will enabled him to return to operational flying after he was badly wounded.

Paul Richey was born in May, 1916. He came of a notable fighting family. His father, of Irish extraction, had won the DSO in the Boer War and added a Bar to it in the year his son was born. Paul Richey was educated in Switzerland, and at Downside before joining the Royal Auxiliary Air Force in 1937.

He was posted to the famous 1 Squadron, at that point flying antiquated Hawker Fury biplane fighters. In 1939, 1 Squadron hastily re-equipped with Hurricanes, and on the outbreak of war, was sent to France. Though during the "Phoney War" period the squadron saw comparatively little action, Richey had his first combat victory on March 29, 1940, when he brought down a Bf 109 fighter.

When the Blitzkrieg began on May 10, 1940, the picture changed rapidly. With German armoured forces swarming into the Low Countries Richey's squadron flew sorties from dawn till dusk, strafing ground troops and trying to defend the hopelessly obsolescent Fairy

took part in the final stages of the war in Europe.

After the war he joined the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and during the Korean war was briefly called up again to command 601 Squadron.

Over the years Richey nurtured the original account of *Fighter Pilot*. He was able to reinforce later editions with more extracts from his wartime diary and with illustrations from French and German war archives.

But it was the intrinsic merit of the writing that preserved its freshness: the honest and vivid analysis of his own fears and exhilaration as well as his portrayal of his comrades' escapades: the flavour of chivalry lingering in those early war months when a captured enemy pilot would be entertained to dinner before being handed over, and when the author went to a church to pray for the soul of the German pilot he had killed.

Three times married, Richey leaves his widow, Diana, two sons and two daughters. His first marriage and a daughter of his second.

HANS HELMUT KIRST

Chronicler of soldiering under Nazism

Hans Helmut Kirst, who died of heart failure on February 23 in a Bremen hospital, was one of West Germany's most successful and popular post-war novelists. A steady stream of Kirst novels appeared in English translation in the Fifties and Sixties, starting with *The Lieutenant Must Be Mad* (1951). He was translated into over two dozen languages and his books sold some twelve million copies.

He was born in Osterode, in East Prussia, on December 5, 1914, the son of a provincial policeman. He joined up as a professional soldier, a natural thing for a Prussian to do, when he was twenty and remained one until the end of the War. He was interned briefly by the American forces and did not become a professional writer until 1947.

A large number of Kirst's novels were concerned with war, soldiering and the struggle of Nazism. The most famous perhaps, was the trilogy *08/15*, published in the mid Fifties in which the ordinary soldier Gunter Asch played the leading role.

The numerals referred to a type of machine gun invented at the start of the century which was being used in updated form in the First World War. But they were also a symbol of the futility and boredom of barracks life, about which Kirst knew a lot. The attempted rebellions of the squadrons against the oppression of an officer class - and an NCO class for that matter - closely associated with Nazi party struck the right note in the Fifties. Joseph Heller and *Catch 22* were waiting in the wings and the Good Soldier Schweik was achieving a fame far beyond his native Czechoslovakia.

Kirst's humour at times was not so far from that of Schweik's creator, Jaroslav Hasek. It verged on farce, but the undertones were distinctly black. Although *08/15* was often referred to as a comic trilogy, the comedy was harsh and German. Kirst was well served by his translator, Roy Kee, but the same could not be said of all those who turned his later books into English.

In 1962 came *Die Nacht der Generale*, published in English

the following year, which was another attack on the German military establishment but in the format of a thriller. As *The Night of the Generals* it was filmed by Anatole Litvak in 1967 with Juliette Greco, Omar Sharif and Peter O'Toole, the latter giving a notably extravagant performance.

Hans Helmut Kirst wrote, in all, 46 novels, but in later years he often found himself, in Britain at least, lumped together with the Thriller or Adventure sections of the book review pages. There was a continuing debate on whether Kirst was a keeper of the anti-Nazi conscience or just a highly accomplished craftsman/storyteller with an acute eye for what the reading public wanted.

While the debate continues there can be little doubt that the decade in the army gave him his best and most convincing material. Kirst eventually passed out of the ranks and became an officer, but his concern was always with the plain soldier and the ways and means he used to combat the military machine.

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SCIENCE REPORT

Symptoms of weightlessness

Brittle bones and wasted muscles have long been recognised as one of the more serious consequences of extended space travel, but the cause of these deteriorations has remained obscure.

Now, experimental results from a team of American and Soviet scientists provide the most complete explanation to date of how these and other weightlessness-related health problems come about.

Such studies are essential to preparations by both the US and the Soviet Union for long space flights such as the trip to Mars. Scientists hope the data they gather will enable them to devise ways to avert health difficulties that would otherwise jeopardize long space missions.

The experiments were carried out aboard Cosmos 1887, a Soviet unmanned "spacecraft" which orbited the Earth for two weeks in October 1987, carrying two rhesus monkeys, 10 rats and a collection of cells from fish, amphibians, birds and mammals, grown in culture media in the laboratory and kept alive in the spacecraft.

Changes wrought during the trip included a loss of disease resistance, bone and muscle weakness, and space sickness. The rats that flew on Cosmos 1887 suffered not only a 40 per cent shrinkage in the cross section of their muscle fibres, but an even greater drop in levels of the protein in the fibres that controls muscle contraction.

The rats' bones lost a third of their ability to resist bending and breaking, apparently due to a "localized osteoporosis" or redistribution of minerals away from the midshaft of the bone, according to Richard Gradsinski, biophysician programme manager for the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Results from other experiments suggest that these changes in bone and muscle may be caused in part by changes in hormone levels, and cannot be attributed solely to lack of use, as was formerly thought.

An essential biochemical factor in the maintenance of both bone and muscle is growth hormone, a protein secreted by the pituitary gland; its level fell by half in the blood of the orbiting rats. If growth hormone deficiency proves to be responsible for the weakness, supplementation of the protein might lessen or even avert the problems altogether for space travellers of the future.

Neurological studies conducted on the two rhesus monkeys showed a weightlessness-induced excitability of the vestibular nerve which is involved in the animals' sense of balance. That might account for the space sickness or dizziness and nausea frequently experienced by astronauts and cosmonauts, said Eugene Ilyin, the director of the Cosmos biosatellite programme.

But, said Ilyin, another common sensation reported by astronauts remains a mystery. A

feeling of blood rushing to the head, shortly after entering orbit, may be due to an increased flow of blood through the carotid artery, which supplies the head. But no such increased blood flow was found in the monkeys.

Weightlessness also appears to have detrimental effects on the immune system. In the rats, the researchers detected a decrease in the number of T-helper cells, a kind of white blood cell that helps to set off the body's response to invading organisms. This decrease in response is reminiscent of what is found in AIDS patients.

Because the animals were killed for post-mortem studies within days of the spacecraft's return, the cause of recovery from the immune system depression is not known, said NASA scientist Adrian Mandel, who conducted the experiments.

None of the information gathered so far would rule out long-term space travel, such as a voyage to Mars. But more experiments are necessary to confirm the results, to determine whether the observations made on rats pertain to monkeys as well, and to test potential preventive measures.

The next Cosmos mission will be launched this summer and the United States is planning a space shuttle mission dedicated to biological experiments in June, 1989.

Marcia Barinaga

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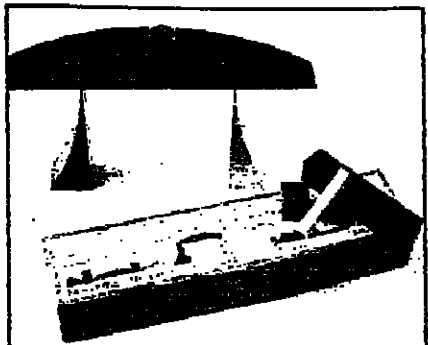
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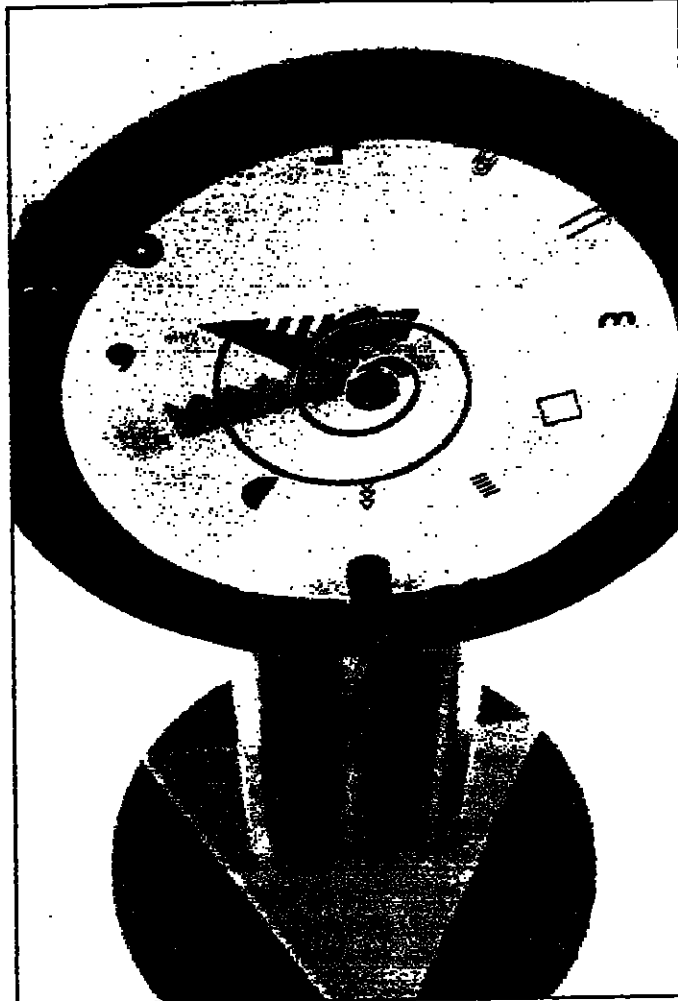
سكنا من الامم

SHOPPING

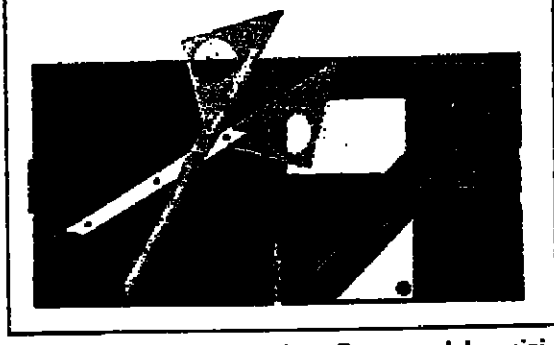
Living colour



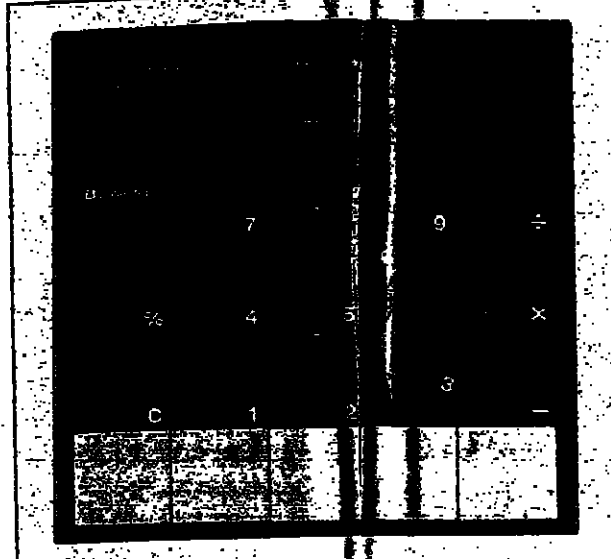
Naef blocks, £29.50 from Authentics, 42 Shelton St, London WC2 (01-240 9845)



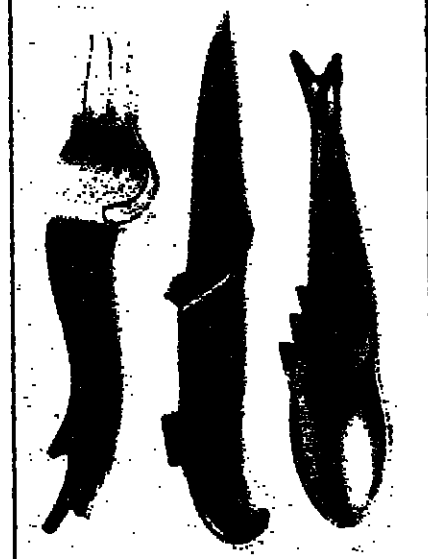
The Paradise Clock, £45 from Liberty, Regent Street, London W1



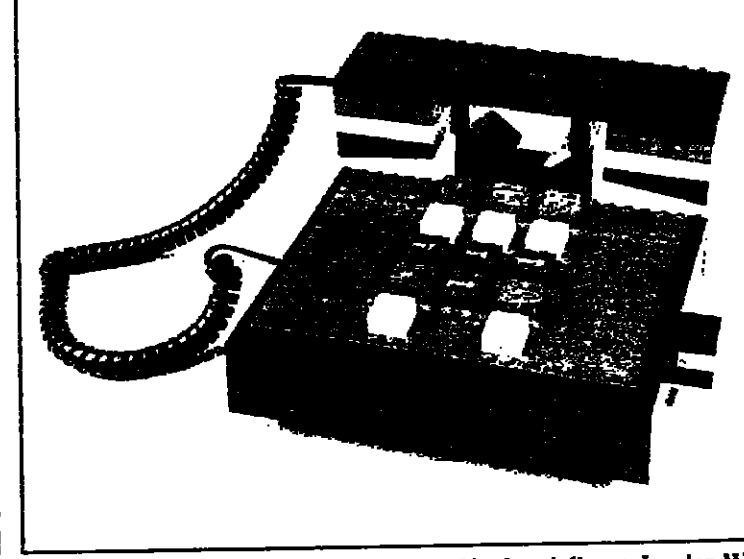
Left, zingy balance scales, £24.95; right, the Paletta Com, containing mini-scissors, ruler, eraser and pen inside a slim case, £29.50, both from Liberty



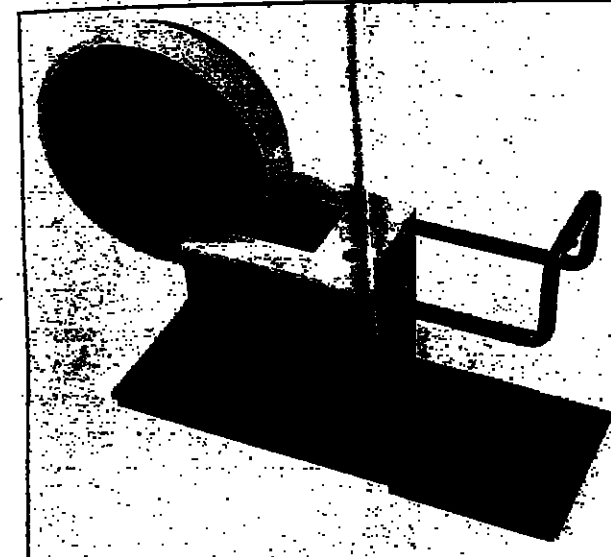
Puzzle-calculator to brighten dull faces, £39.95 from Liberty



Cutlery, £59.95 a set from the Troika Shop



Lego-like telephone, £69 from F.F.W.D., 1-4a Newburgh Street, London W1



Tape dispenser for deskbound boredom, £49.95 from Liberty

Goodbye to a decade (matt black (writes Nicole Swengley). No that the Nineties are in view, colour: returning to our homes and shops with a vengeance. Furnishings and accessories for every room are brighter and richer. Magazine advertisements for fashion and home products show the way, so do the graphics now used on television. Even the more switched-on supermarkets are taking a fresh look at their own-brand packaging, and shop interiors are being revamped. As the death-with-everything decade slips away, it's time to get of the palette again.

Hi-tech allure, low-use reality

Deyan Sudjic delves into suburban dream world of gadgets

You could cast and prop an entire evening of Mike Leigh's theatre of improvised *Abigail's Party* embarrassment from the pages of the *Innovations Report*. This flimsy but portentously named publication, which tumbles every month out of the same envelope as the latest demand for money with menaces from your credit card company, provides a remarkable insight into the frenzied dreams of suburban luxury of the late 1980s.

Sitting on the sofaed-chosen from its pages that "you won't want to hide away" next to the Victorian fireplace "installed in minutes, an exact replica moulded in tough resin complete with 2kw fan heater". Derrick is looking particularly spruce this evening thanks to a liberal application of Mane, "originally developed in Harley Street, simply spray on and thicken every strand of hair electrostatically".

It's the perfect setting, in fact, to crack open a bottle of Liebfraumilch, put Demis Roussos on the CD player, and relax. This is the nirvana of the M25, the Next suit, and the Club Class on the early-morning Brussels flight.

Obviously there is something about credit cards that brings out the worst in people. Owning one or more puts us off our guard, or so the manufacturers of automatic trouser presses and computerized bread ovens assume, and renders us peculiarly vulnerable to the blandishments of the *Innovations Report*. And to those who want to sell us leather-look briefcases guaranteed to impress, and the Boston Bulldog alarm, the loudspeaker that offers instant dog protection "virtually indistinguishable from the real thing", and makes us want to astonish our friends with the "no flame" cigarette lighter.

The report, every copy signed in Biro by the report team, is a kind of blandishments to buy mail the kind of objects that you just can't buy anywhere else, like credit card-sized toasters, table lamps that come in a built-in digital clock, authentic classic trouser press. Just that kind of person is incidentally, who will wiggle buy a trouser press in they and age?

No home is complete without its Strong Point Markwo Safe, got up to look in a domestic powerpoint, and television viewer's dilemma, "attractively stained Old Oak finish".

But behind the hi-tech gloss or space blank, there is still strong. Poote streak to the red and its wares, to the age of digital spelling machine ionizers and p-able exercise machines, what *Age and Mart* was to do coats, collarless ex-R shirts, ballfight posters, the age of Brylcreem.

And the *Innovations Report* is said proof that even such surviving corners of authentic vernacular are being smartened-up and ushered into the last few years of the decade of design with everything.

The *Innovations Report* dresses itself up in a gloss, technocratic necessity. There is an urgency to its gap paper layout that implies the no modern man can actually live without its products.

Yet its inspiration is, in reality, the conspicuous uselessness created by the painstaking Schlegel store in New York, which is the place that gave the world such miracles of 20th-century civilization as the heated lavatory seat, and the ob-so-practical luminous golf ball.

Remarkable feats of ingenuity are performed in persuading microchips to perform the simplest of tasks, all in the pursuit of the gadget.

INTRODUCING ROYAL HOFBRÄU. IN LAGER, IT'S THE STATE OF THE ART. IN BAVARIA, IT'S THE ART OF THE STATE.

Bavarians have always valued their most celebrated creation: the beer we now call lager.

It's not by coincidence that two of their biggest industries are barley and hop growing.

This zeal for the art of making lager is no passing fad. In 1516 they passed a law about it.



Duke Wilhelm's Purity Law, decreed that only if a lager were made from barley, hops, yeast and water and nothing else, could it be called true lager.

The Duke's concern for the topic became a profitable concern when his grandson, also a Wilhelm, established the royal court brewery - das Königliches Hofbräuhaus.

He commissioned Munich's most accomplished brewer to create the right royal lager.



The result was so astonishing that the recipe became the jewel in the



THE STATE OF THE ART.

Bavarian crown. The monarch's lager slaked the Bavarian thirst throughout the ensuing centuries, until the unfortunate King Ludwig III was overthrown in 1919.

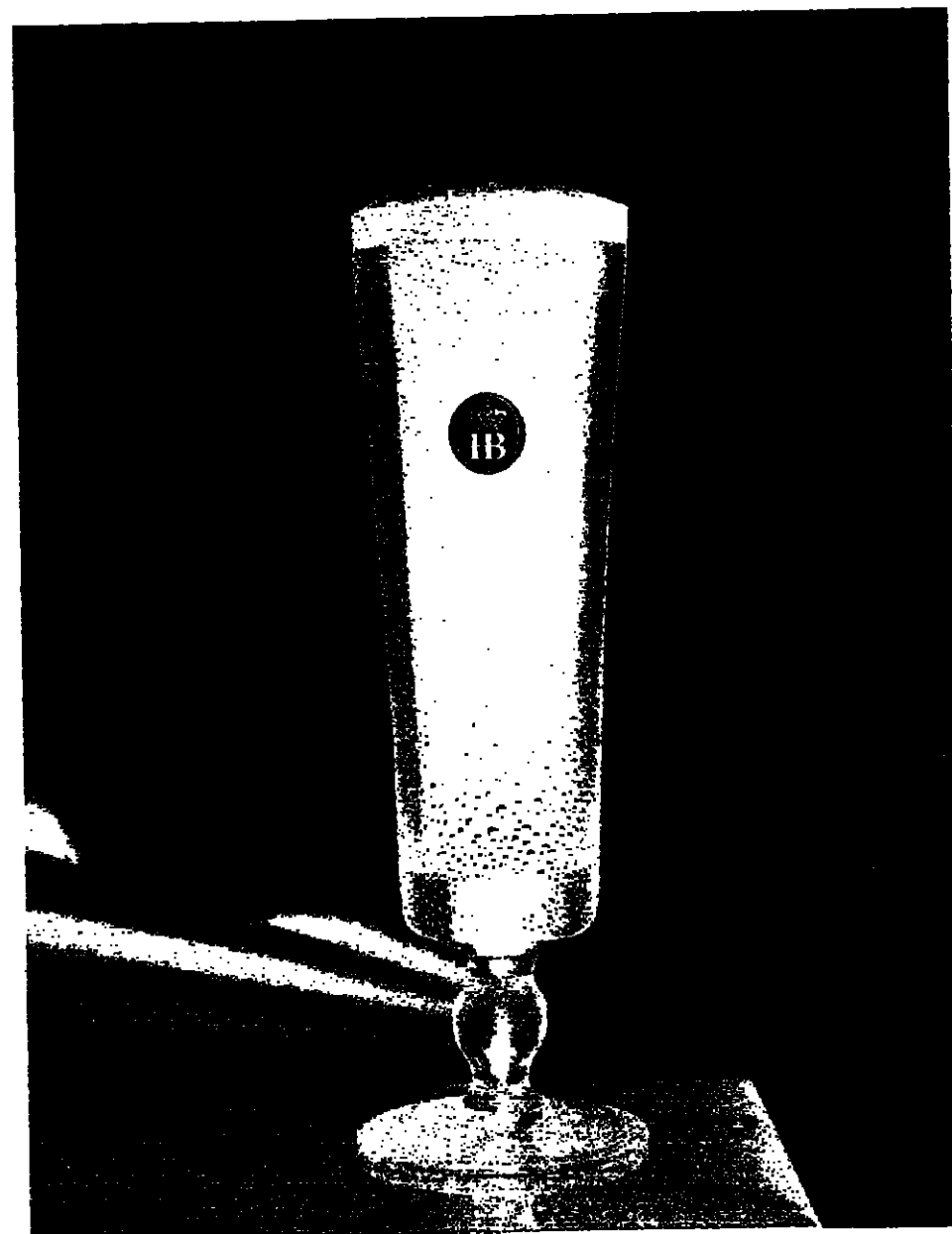
The people were not keen on the man, but held no grudge against his brewery.

Indeed, they decided to

commandeer it for the State.

And now the Bavarian powers-that-be have conceded that, after four hundred years, discerning lager drinkers in Britain should have the opportunity to enjoy Royal Hofbräu at home.

Taste it, and we think you'll agree that before you can really know true lager you need to know Royal Hofbräu.



THE ART OF THE STATE.

**Royal
HOFBRÄU**

MBS chief executive leaves after 'likely loss' warning

By Martin Waller

MBS, the battered Windsor computer distributor, has announced the sudden departure of Mr Stafford Taylor, its chief executive, and another profits warning, with a pre-tax loss forecast for calendar 1988.

Mr Taylor was one of the ex-IBM team who joined in 1985 to turn MBS around. It was then known as Micro Business Systems. MBS said Mr Owen Williams would stay as chairman but the chief executive's job would be merged with that of managing director for product sales, meaning Mr Taylor's replacement with Mr Derek Lewis in due course.

A spokesman for the company refused to say if the split

was amicable. Legal negotiations are taking place over Mr Taylor's compensation, which could reach £360,000 on the basis of his three-year rolling contract at a present annual salary of £120,000.

The two have an unenviable reputation as heads of MBS. They have raised a total of almost £50 million in four separate share issues since joining, the most recent in March last year at 75p.

At yesterday's share price, down 5p to 42p, the company is capitalized at £42 million, with net debt estimated at about £10 million.

The latest trouble for MBS came last summer when it

withdrew from low-volume wholesaling business after IBM decided to increase the number of British distributors from two to eight.

In September, it announced a restructuring and redundancy programme after interim pre-tax profits fell from £1.36 million to £215,000.

The latest news is that trading continued to be difficult until mid-way through the fourth quarter of 1988, with a loss therefore likely for the full year when figures are announced in March.

Mr Patrick Wellington, an analyst at County NatWest, the broker, has now trimmed his forecast for 1989 by £2

million to £3 million. This compares with optimistic indications from the company that implied a figure as high as £7 million this year.

Yesterday's statement said the restructuring had made "significant progress" and the resulting organization was now "significantly leaner and concentrates on its principal core activities."

Mr Stafford and Mr Owen agreed, at the time of the last placing, to take almost 3 million new shares on their own account at a 15p premium to the placing price. The vast majority of this money, 89p a share, is due for payment in December.

Brittan blames higher costs on refusal to join EMS

By Michael Dynes

In his most forthright criticism of Government economic policy, Sir Leon Brittan, the UK Commissioner responsible for competition policy, yesterday accused Mrs Thatcher of imposing unnecessary costs on British business through her persistent refusal to allow Britain to participate in the EMS.

Sir Leon, who also holds the EEC dossier for financial services, held out the prospect of reduced inflation, lower costs for business, and greater influence over controversial Community moves towards economic and monetary integration once Britain becomes a full member of the EMS.

Addressing the European Business Institute in London, Sir Leon said the success of the EMS in limiting currency fluctuations and containing inflation among participating states "has been a highly constructive development both for them and for the cohesion of the Community."

"The next step should be sterling's full membership of the system, within the same parity band as the mark and the French franc. This would be a clear signal to the financial markets that the UK Government's undoubted political commitment to low inflation had been given institutional form," he added.

Britain is already a member of the EMS in so far as sterling participates in the European Currency Unit (Ecu), but re-



Joining the fight for EMS membership: Sir Leon Brittan

mains outside the system's exchange rate mechanism.

Full participation "would help to make lower inflation easier to achieve, so lessening the costs in output foregone by the move from over 7 per cent inflation here to the 2-3 per cent level enjoyed in Germany and elsewhere."

"It would also be of concrete and lasting benefit to British business and industry by providing for the first time a framework within which receipts from goods exported to the Community could be planned in sterling," which

would be of particular benefit to small businesses.

"A 15 per cent movement in exchange rates over a year can mean the difference between a useful profit and an unsustainable loss. Other countries in Europe now have this benefit - why not Britain as well?"

Sir Leon said intra-Community trade in the past 15 years had grown twice as rapidly as with the rest of the world, attributable to the development of the internal market, but also to "the zone of monetary stability which the EMS has brought to the Community."

First Technology lifts Ricardo bid

By Michael Tate

First Technology looked to be moving closer to victory in its bid for Ricardo Group last night, after launching an increased - and final - offer worth £22.7 million.

The new terms - 20 First Technology shares for every 57 Ricardo - value each Ricardo share at 156p, or 28.9 times Ricardo's last full-year earnings, said Dr Fred West-

lake, chairman and chief executive. Ricardo shareholders can alternatively opt for a cash payment of 145.26p a share.

First Technology shares improved 5p to 450p, lifting the value of the share swap terms by a couple of pence, and Ricardo, with First Technology in the market, rose 7p to 147p.

At the first closing date this

week, First Technology was claiming 33.4 per cent, and can count on another 1.9 per cent, representing PrivatBank Zurich's commitment.

The figure also included a stake of about 5 per cent committed, in error, on behalf of Schroders Investment Management. SIM and its administrators are disputing the telephoned instructions.

Edwardes dreams of a brass City nameplate for Minorco

Continued from page 17

by fellow directors as they were travelling in France in a corporate bus.

The timing of the elevation was important. He was not appointed just to take on ConsGold, but to lead a new Minorco, which he contended was a domestic investment arm looking for a home.

"Nobody knew for sure on September 20 if Minorco would bid for ConsGold. I only agreed to the new position on the assurance that Minorco and a newly constituted board would be independent of its parents, and able, on dispassionate grounds and without any historical reference to its past links, to forge its own path."

"We only bid on September 21. No, I did not need any special nod from Mr Harry Oppenheimer."

Minorco and Sir Michael have, as yet, only one foot in ConsGold's door but, representing a 29.6 per cent stake, it is a very determined foot. Sir Michael has already been vocal on the "change" he has in mind, which clearly includes the ConsGold board, in his determination to make ConsGold assets really sing.

He is similarly charged with "change" at Minorco, whose roots date from the nationalization of the Zambian copper belt. Minorco was born as a depository for dividends ex-Zambia. Its first home was Bermuda. It later moved to Luxembourg, a home it finds rather comfortable because of tax advantages and with 1992 in mind. As a demonstration of good faith, Minorco (traded and listed on the London stock market for 60 years) has declared it will keep shareholders informed as though it were a UK company.



Short-term planner: Sir Michael has no Minorco contract

"Let me also tell you that we are absolutely determined not to overpay for ConsGold," Sir Michael says. "And let me add that in the past we debated whether we should sell our stake. Ten days ago we even debated before our second offer, at £14, whether to bid below the first of £13."

"To overpay is death," says the man who has been at the

Recently, Sir Michael was made chairman of Charter Consolidated, another "passive" investment in the Minorco camp.

In his awareness of the perception that being at the top at Charter can be as dangerous as sitting in Sweeney Todd's barber's chair? "Thanks for the tip."

Whether Minorco wins ConsGold or not, Sir Michael has given it a visibility which would otherwise have been achieved only by a huge advertising and PR campaign. With some extra work, Minorco will in time become a City household name.

However, the City will only really know that Minorco has arrived when it puts up its own brass nameplate in London and its switchboard answers with a cheery: "Good morning. This is Minorco."

At present it operates from rented offices in an unmarked house on the right-hand side of Ely Place, in the City. Entrance is monitored by a remote-controlled TV camera. The telephone is answered with a whispered number only, and in a voice which one fully expects to demand: "Password!"

"I am itching to put up our own brass plate," Sir Michael says. "If we win ConsGold we plan a London staff of up to 30 instead of the current eight." Sir Michael says. "If not, then the centre of gravity will return to Luxembourg. Even so, Minorco has a host of opportunities in many parts of the world - and from areas which would surprise you - to mull over."

If Sir Michael's dreams are realised, he might find himself working later this year in St James's Square. Though, as Mr Rudolph Agnew, ConsGold chairman, might say: "Over my dead body."

Tide of opposition prompts second thoughts on water sale

Confidence, as we are all aware, is the key to the way stock and currency markets behave. The political fortunes of Margaret Thatcher are the key to confidence in this country. For the moment they are wilting.

The Government is under sustained attack from groups who feel abused or threatened because Thatcherism is now trained on them. In mid-week, after an exceptional warm January in which the FT-SE index went up 15 per cent, the equity market caught a chill. When a public opinion poll finds that Conservative and Labour are separated by no more than the margin for statistical error the market is bound to take some notice, or more accurately reflect a twinge of fear.

The opinion poll is a critical test of the political will. Inflation is something we all understand and accordingly privatizing it is thoroughly unpopular. Will the Government back down? It is weakening but retreat would smack of irresolution and incompetence.

The tide of opposition is still rising. On the one hand the public is confused, and incensed, to discover the water industry's low standards, relative to European Economic Community standards. But the public does not favour the idea of having to pay, through higher charges, to raise standards to EEC levels. Nicholas Ridley, Environment Secretary, admitted to the Commons that the privatized water industry would probably have to spend £3 billion to conform to EEC requirements, plus perhaps another £1.5 billion to switch to water metering for domestic customers.

On the other side of the same coin showing banks in sophisticated places, like western Europe, how banking was really done.

The analysis is interesting because one conclusion is that European banks now run the risk of making the same mistakes. The chief error was over-expansion as managements succumbed to the fads of the time. Two in particular: the consumer financial services revolution which had to be served through financial supermarkets, and global capital markets which required integrated businesses trading around the clock.

US banks are now in a different phase. They are "restructuring" to improve their profitability; abandoning certain sectors of the market, laying off people, and forming "strategic alliances" with Japanese banks. They want the laws changed so that they can become nationwide banks, better able to beat off foreign competition in their own backyard.

Banks that survive may be "the leanest and most efficient banks in the world" about the time thrusting European banks are beginning to struggle with reduced profitability brought about by overexpansion. Conceivably the Europeans will have made the same classic errors as the Americans. The Japanese seem to avoid the more obvious mistakes. In Britain the



KENNETH FLEET

are the investors in water companies' shares - should the sale take place. If the Cabinet had its time over again it would probably not have revived water privatization, but Mrs Thatcher insists that utilities are the ideal investment for small investors.

With the mammoth task of selling off electricity beginning next year, this autumn is the only chance for water. Michael Howard, the minister immediately responsible for the water sale, insists everything is proceeding according to schedule. As far as the privatization Bill is concerned he is right. But in terms of marketing privatization little or nothing is happening. Where is Sid or his like? Publicity (bad) and public reaction (hostile) is all one way and the longer it continues the harder it will be to sell the stock.

Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank advising the Government, seems not to have the most fruitful relationship with Nicholas Ridley.

The only new thought tossed into the pool, which at least recognizes difficulties with the sale, is that the initial offer might be limited to 51 per cent of the shares in each company. This is a bad idea. It smacks of defeatism and political compromise; it would make the industry a soft target for renationalization; and this knowledge and the overhang of secondary issues of the other 49 per cent would

dilute the appeal of water shares and debilitate the market in them.

Withdrawal of the water sale would have one advantage: it would reduce the expected flow of new equity into the market. A remarkable fact about the market is the virtual absence of rights issues. The pipeline is almost dry. Shortage of stock is one of the arguments of the bulls.

Essentially the debate has not changed. At the turn of the year greed supplanted fear and the fund managers moved some of their vast, accumulated cash balances into shares. The Chancellor, they were persuaded, would bring the high flying UK economy softly and safely down to earth. A soft landing means that interest rates have reached the level required to keep inflation down without a recession.

Inflation is still rising and if it went from 7.5 per cent to double figures the Government would be in a tight corner. The pound would already have come under pressure and the markets would be looking for higher interest rates, and through them, to a hard landing. But would the Government have the will to push the country into recession? It did in the early 1980s and brought inflation down. So far into the life of the present Parliament I doubt that it would again.

But I am not yet convinced that it will be necessary. Some neat footwork by the Bank of England to keep the pound in reasonable shape until the Budget and a statesmanlike display of prudent accounting on March 14 should be enough to keep interest rates at their present level and the market in the mood to consolidate the gains it made in January.

Banking on the man to succeed

Although it is difficult to tell precisely how well because of fluctuations in the size of provisions against bad debts, the clearing banks did well in 1988. Barclays figures next week will not cloud the generally cheerful picture painted by NatWest, Midland and Lloyds.

Even NatWest's £56 million loss in investment banking (County NatWest) which makes £250 million lost in three years seems small against group profits of £1.4 billion. So badly for the clearers. Their hold on the domestic market has barely been dented by foreign competition (mainly American), they have benefited from the huge demands for credit in a booming economy; they have used their oligopolist powers (the lead and quickly follow) to good effect, fattening their profit margins at every favourable opportunity under a beneficent regime of high interest rates.

From an American perspective observed Shearson Lehman Hutton, European banks have "a disconcerting air of invincibility." They are in a position "to flex their muscles" while US banks continue to wonder how they got it so wrong during the mid 1980s. Third World debt; oil debt; real estate debt. Oh the pain of it all, unrelieved by the expected rewards of

showing banks in sophisticated places, like western Europe, how banking was really done.

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clearers are taking the revolution in consumer financial services seriously and Barclays and NatWest are well into the integrated securities business, at some cost.

NatWest alone seems really intent on annexing hostile territory. It has just acquired First National Bank of Central (New) Jersey, in its attempts to become a "super-regional" bank in the north-east of the US.

The market is now asking three questions of NatWest: County NatWest, American ambitions, and the man to succeed Lord Boardman, now 70, as chairman.

The Governor of the Bank of England is too valuable where he is and should not even contemplate moving back into his old job. Rothschild is the place for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he does not go to Warburg when they are asked to release Sir David Scholey to succeed Robin Leigh-Pemberton at the Bank of England. Sir Peter Walters should be back in the frame but it appears he is not.

Of the thoroughbreds that leaves David Walker, ex Treasury and Bank of England, now head of the Securities and Investments Board, and Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, chairman of the Takeover Panel. Alexander's the man to go for.

Advertisement

High earner pays no tax

Peter Fletcher is a successful entrepreneur who will earn £200,000 in this tax year. Last year, his tax bill was a frightening £105,000+. This year Peter will pay nothing at all.

He is taking advantage of special tax concessions offered through Business Expansion Schemes (BES) and Enterprise Zone property investment, which together will completely eliminate his tax liability. What's more, he won't have to dig deep into his pockets to do this as all his investments are totally self funding, through specially arranged bank loans.

Peter has invested £140,000 in Enterprise Zone property, £40,000 in BES and his remaining tax liability is mopped up by personal allowances and mortgage and pension tax relief.

But good news for the Fletcher family doesn't stop here. Peter's brother

Michael, who is 28, works in the City and of Johnson Fry, a company that specialises in

year, has found that he BES and Enterprise



London Businessman, Peter Fletcher, earns £200,000 p.a. and pays no tax.

too can eliminate his Zone investment, com- looking at Enterprise entire higher rate tax lia- ments "All higher rate Zone investment which by investing in a tax payers should be enjoys full tax relief on

Smaller Companies Ass- examining BES and approximately 95% of Enterprise Zones very the investment.

"One important point to stress, however, is that people should invest

bles investors to invest, at now before possible Budget changes. Why pay money to the tax- man when you can this type of investment (without any further

has been available. BES capital outlay) to make individual should also be

Please contact me with further information on tax savings.

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WALL STREET

Dow tumbles as US rates rise

New York (Reuters) — Wall Street shares continued to fall following a rise in the Federal Reserve discount rate, a bank prime rate rise, and a gain in Federal fund rates.

Rising interest rates are bearish for shares, brokers said, though they may help fight inflation. Programme selling also hit shares.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 19.1 points at 2,270.36 in early trading and declining issues led gains by more than two to one.

"The prime rate rise is the real surprise," said Mr Larry Wachel of Prudential Bache Securities. He said a seven-point discount rate was widely

expected. "Rising short term interest rates create alternatives to common stocks and should hurt."

● Hong Kong — Share prices closed lower but recovered most of today's losses in volatile trade that pushed the Hang Seng index briefly below 3,100 points. The Hang Seng ended 11.03 points lower at 3,114.23. It lost 10.47 points in the last 30 minutes of trade.

● Frankfurt — The 30-share real-time DAX index closed up 16.34 points at 1,288.04. It had dropped 20.47 points on Thursday.

● Sydney — The All Ordinaries index rose 5.1 points to 1,486.2.

Shares shrug off discount rate rise to end on firm note

Share prices in London shrugged off the prospect of dearer money on the other side of the Atlantic to end the account on a firm note.

London took the news of a half-point rise in US prime rates to 11½ per cent overnight on Wall Street in its stride. Share prices opened firmer helped by the appearance of a few buyers for the new account which starts on Monday. But the Federal Reserve's decision to raise the discount rate a half-point to 7 per cent had share investors running for cover.

The FT-SE 100 closed up 2.9 points at 2,019.5. The narrower FT 30 index was 8.5 higher at 1,669.2 at 3.30pm. A £90 million mixed programme trade by Smith New Court, the broker, helped quotations consolidate round the higher levels.

Dollar earners made all the running as the currency traded strongly on foreign exchange markets on further consideration of higher US rates, but overall the volume of trade remained small.

With the Chancellor's terse comment that there will be no question of a premature let-up in interest rates still ringing in fund managers' ears, institutional investors remained on the sidelines.

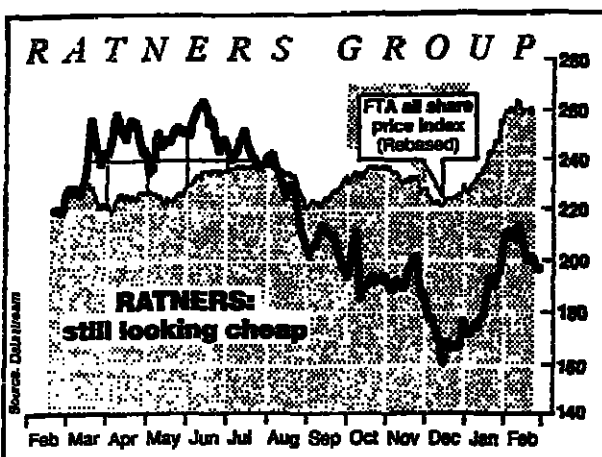
Government securities recovered earlier falls to close with gains stretching to 1½ on the day.

Food manufacturers were a dull market worried by reports that the US corn crop had been ravaged by a drought-induced fungus. Corn remains a big ingredient of many food products and shortages are certain to drive the price higher adding to manufacturers' costs.

United Biscuits reflected the fears, slipping 2p to 32½, while Tate & Lyle, which has big corn syrup interests in the US fell 5p to 22½. Falls were also seen in Ranks Hovis McDougall, 1p to 37½, and Hillsdown Holdings, 1p to 28½.

Meanwhile, Appletree continued to lose ground, sliding 3p to 105½ — a two-day loss of 39p — after bid talks this week broke down.

Eagle Trust, the Birmingham express parcels-to-property mini-conglomerate, advanced 1½p to 16½ as a



big buyer continued to make its presence felt. Dealers have been alerted by a persistent buyer who has been only too pleased to swallow large lots of ET stock as soon as it comes on to the market. They believe the buyer must be close to holding a discloseable stake of almost 5 per cent.

BPB Industries rose 4p to 246p. On Thursday the group had lunch with Williams de Broe, the broker, and later gave a presentation to fund managers arranged by Barclays de Zoete Wedd. But its reception was mixed and there are still worries about a plasterboard price war.

There has been talk of an imminent management buy-out of 20p a share, but dealers have treated the story with scepticism.

ET, headed by Mr John Ferriday, announced interim profits up nearly four times to £7.6 million and the City is looking for £17.5 million for the full-year.

Shares of Ratners, the H Samuel, Ernest Jones and Saks jewellery group, which have lost a lot of their recent sparkle, closed unchanged at 196p.

But Hoare Govett, the broker, is still urging clients to buy the shares, claiming they are cheap and trading at a discount to the market.

The Zales/Salisbury stores acquisition from Next will prove to be an excellent long-term deal and earnings prospects are good. Christmas trading was ahead of budget and profits growth was up in January.

Storehouse, Sir Terence Conran's BHS, Habitat Mottercare, Heal's and Richards retailing combine, which last week caught the market on the hop by announcing £48 million of costs and write-offs which will all but wipe out profits this year, fell 4p to 165½p on end-of-account selling.

Mr Paul Morris, analyst at Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, advises clients to sell the shares. He believes cost pressures will remain intense and an increase in mark-downs will reduce profits before exceptional items to £61 million this year. He forecasts a further collapse to £55 million next year.

Mr Asher Edelman, the US corporate raider, is expected soon to confirm that he has increased his stake in Storehouse from 6 per cent to more than 7 per cent, but dealers believe it unlikely that he will launch a full-scale offer.

The thin conditions that have troubled market-makers this year were further highlighted by the sudden surge in the price of RMC Group, up 14p to 62½p. A buying order for about 100,000 shares prompted the excitement but by the close a mere 495,000 shares had been traded.

ICI, Britain's biggest manufacturing group, continued to draw strength from the full-year figures which showed pre-tax profits up from £1.3 billion to £1.47 billion and a generous dividend increase. The price closed 16p higher at £11.72p.

Dealers are hoping that ICI will attract renewed American support following the US

roadshow which gets under way next week.

Noble & Land, the specialist engineer and consumer products group, gained 4p to 103p on revived speculative buying.

Mr Ross Martin and Mr Peter Williams, two New Zealand businessmen, recently took management control of N&L by reversing their Theus Investments vehicle into the company.

Dealers are hoping that the new antipodean team will inject some of its assets into N&L. They have said they intend to pull the group out of engineering.

Hicking Pensicote, the textiles group, jumped 6p to 107½p with dealers banking on a bid. Robertshaw Holdings, a private property development company run by Mr Stuart Robertshaw, a Yorkshire businessman, has increased its stake in HP to more than 17 per cent and the market believes the move is a prelude to a full offer.

Based on the perception that more people will be ignoring the Costa del Sol this summer to spend their holidays in places like Butlins because of the financial burdens of higher credit and dearer mortgages, buyers chased Rank Organisation 7p higher to 90½p.

MEPC, the property group, rose 5p to 55½p following the news that it had sold the Sydney Stock Exchange building for Aus\$370 million (£14.7 million) in what is believed to be one of the biggest-ever property deals in Australia.

Regalia Properties jumped 13p to 14½p as the company announced the sale of an office development site in London for £130 million.

James Finlay, the Glasgow international trader and financier, jumped 7p to 118p on the news that John Swire & Sons, the private holding company which controls Swire Group of Hong Kong, has increased its stake in the company to 29.9 per cent of the voting rights. Elders IXL, the Australian brewer held almost 6 per cent of James Finlay and is considered to be a possible bidder for the group which has a break-up value of between 130p and 160p a share, say analysts.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Month	25%	20%	15%	10%	5%	0%	Notice	Contact
BANKS									
Ordinary Dep A/c	4.55	4.80	3.70	none	none	7 day			
Typical									
Fixed Term Deposits:									
1 month	8.75	8.50	8.25	8.00	7.75	7.50	1 mth	01-529 1587	
3 months	8.75	8.50	8.25	8.00	7.75	7.50	3 mth	01-529 1587	
6 months	8.75	8.50	8.25	8.00	7.75	7.50	6 mth	01-529 1587	
1 year	8.75	8.50	8.25	8.00	7.75	7.50	1 yr	01-529 1587	
2 years	8.75	8.50	8.25	8.00	7.75	7.50	2 yr	01-529 1587	
3 years	8.75	8.50	8.25	8.00	7.75	7.50	3 yr	01-529 1587	
4 years	8.75	8.50	8.25	8.00	7.75	7.50	4 yr	01-529 1587	
5 years	8.75	8.50	8.25	8.00	7.75	7.50	5 yr	01-529 1587	
6 years	8.75	8.50	8.25	8.00	7.75	7.50	6 yr	01-529 1587	
7 years	8.75	8.50	8.25	8.00	7.75	7.50	7 yr	01-529 1587	
8 years	8.75	8.50	8.25	8.00	7.75	7.50	8 yr	01-529 1587	
9 years	8.75	8.50	8.25	8.00	7.75	7.50	9 yr	01-529 1587	
10 years	8.75	8.50	8.25	8.00	7.75	7.50	10 yr	01-529 1587	

	Month	25%	20%	15%	10%	5%	0%	Notice	Contact
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS									
Bank of Scotland	8.54	8.32	7.48	2.50	none	01-442 7777			
Barclays	8.30	8.50	6.88	1.50	none	0804 228881			
First National	8.50	8.50	3.80	1.00	none	01 626 6543			
London & Lancashire	8.50	8.50	3.80	1.00	none	01 596 2076			
Midland	8.50	8.50	3.80	1.00	none	01 326 3338			
Norfolk & Norwich	8.50	8.50	3.80	1.00	none	01 529 1587			
Paragon	8.50	8.50	3.80	1.00	none	01 529 1587			
Prudential	8.50	8.50	3.80	1.00	none	01 529 1587			
Scottish Widows	8.50	8.50	3.80	1.00	none	01 529 1587			
TSB	8.50	8.50	3.80	1.00	none	01 529 1587			
Wales & West	8.50	8.50	3.80	1.00	none	01 529 1587			

	Month	25%	20%	15%	10%	5%	0%	Notice	Contact
BUILDING SOCIETIES									
Ordinary Share A/c	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 mth	none				
Best buy — largest socs:									
Barclays	6.15	4.92	2.50	1 mth	none				
First National	6.15	4.92	2.50	1 mth	none				
London & Lancashire	6.15	4.92	2.50	1 mth	none				
Midland	6.15	4.92	2.50	1 mth	none				
Norfolk & Norwich	6.15	4.92	2.50	1 mth	none				
Paragon	6.15	4.92	2.50	1 mth	none				
Prudential	6.15	4.92	2.50	1 mth	none				
Scottish Widows	6.15	4.92	2.50	1 mth	none				
TSB	6.15	4.92	2.50	1 mth	none				
Wales & West	6.15	4.92	2.50	1 mth	none				

	Month	25%	20%	15%	10%	5%	0%	Notice	Contact
NATIONAL SAVINGS									
Ordinary A/c	6.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	01-648-4856			
Investment A/c	10.75	8.00	6.25	5-10,000	1 mth	01-648-4856			
Income Bond	11.50	8.00	6.25	5-10,000	3 mth	01-648-4856			
Deposit Bond	11.50	8.00	6.25	5-10,000	6 mth	01-648-4856			
Fixed Rate Bond	11.50	8.00	6.25	5-10,000	1 yr	01-648-4856			
Fixed Rate Bond	11.50	8.00	6.25	5-10,000	2 yr	01-648-4856			
Fixed Rate Bond	11.50	8.00	6.25	5-10,000	3 yr	01-648-4856			
Fixed Rate Bond	11.50	8.00	6.25	5-10,000	4 yr	01-648-4856			
Fixed Rate Bond	11.50	8.00	6.25	5-10,000	5 yr	01-648-4856			
Fixed Rate Bond	11.50	8.00	6.25	5-10,000	6 yr	01-648-4856			
Fixed Rate Bond	11.50	8.00	6.25	5-10,000	7 yr	01-648-4856			
Fixed Rate Bond	11.50	8.00	6.25	5-10,000	8 yr	01-648-4856			
Fixed Rate Bond	11.50	8.00	6.25	5-10,000	9 yr	01-648-4856			
Fixed Rate Bond	11.50	8.00	6.25	5-10,000	10 yr	01-648-4856			

	Month	25%	20%	15%	10%	5%	0%	Notice	Contact
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS									
Ordinary A/c	10.25	10.25	8.20	1,000 mth	1 yr	Figures from			
Income Bond	10.25	10.25	8.20	1,000 mth	2 yr	Figures from			
Income Bond	10.25	10.25	8.20	1,000 mth	3 yr	Figures from			
Income Bond	10.25	10.25	8.20	1,000 mth	4 yr	Figures from			
Income Bond	10.25	10.25	8.20	1,000 mth	5 yr	Figures from			
Income Bond	10.25	10.25	8.20	1,000 mth	6 yr	Figures from			
Income Bond	10.25	10.25	8.20	1,000 mth	7 yr	Figures from			
Income Bond	10.25	10.25	8.20	1,000 mth	8 yr	Figures from			
Income Bond	10.25	10.25	8.20	1,000 mth	9 yr	Figures from			
Income Bond	10.25	10.25	8.20	1,000 mth	10 yr	Figures from			

CGT ALLOWANCE, JANUARY 1989

	Month	25%	20%	15%	10%	5%	0%	Notice	Contact
CGT ALLOWANCE, JANUARY 1989									
Jan	0.344	0.278	0.217	0.158	0.110	0.075			
Feb	0.344	0.278	0.217	0.158	0.110	0.075			
Mar	0.344	0.278	0.217	0.158	0.110	0.075			
Apr	0.344	0.278	0.217	0.158	0.110	0.075			
May	0.344	0.278	0.217	0.158	0.110	0.075			
Jun	0.344	0.278	0.217	0.158	0.110	0.075			
Jul	0.344	0.278	0.217	0.158	0.110	0.075			
Aug	0.344	0.278	0.217	0.158	0.110	0.075			
Sep	0.344	0.278	0.217	0.158	0.110	0.075			
Oct	0.344	0.278	0.217	0.158	0.110	0.075			
Nov	0.344	0.278	0.217	0.158	0.110	0.075			
Dec	0.344	0.278	0.217	0.158	0.110	0.075			

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

AMR Corp	61	50%	Fielders	12%	13	Plains	81%	30%
ASA	40%	30%	Fed Chicago	40%	35%	Pennaco	40	40%
Ashland	35	25%	Fst Int Bncp	48%	40%	Petrol	55%	53%
Alcoa	62%	52%	Fst Nat Bncp	48%	40%	Phillips 66	105%	103%
Alcan	28%	18%	FT Wchn	40%	35%	Phillips 66	43	41%
AMR Hess	35%	25%	Ford Motor	53%	52%	Primera	23%	22%
Am Brands	50%	40%	Gen Corp	45%	44%	Primera	23%	22%
Am Cymru	50%	40%	Gen Corp	17%	17%	Pro Grade	50%	50%
Am Eir	25%	15%	Gen Electric	48%	46%	Pro Grade	50%	50%
Am Family	15%	5%	Gen Electric	48%	46%	Rt Nabolos	83%	83%
Am Gen	87%	87	Gen Mills	54%	54%	Rt Nabolos	83%	83%
Am Int	71%	71	Gen Mills	54%	54%	Rt Nabolos	83%	83%
Am Tel	30%	20%	Gen Mills	54%	54%	Rt Nabolos	83%	83%
Amco Corp	75%	75	Gen Mills	54%	54%	Rt Nabolos	83%	83%
Amco Int	35%	35	Gen Mills	54%	54%	Rt Nabolos	83%	83%
Amco Int	35%	35	Gen Mills	54%	54%	Rt Nabolos	83%	83%
Amco Int	35%	35	Gen Mills	54%	54%	Rt Nabolos	83%	83%
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Amco Int	35%	35	Gen Mills	54%	54%	Rt Nabolos	83%	83%
Amco Int	35%	35	Gen Mills	54%	54%	Rt Nabolos	83%	83%
Amco Int	35%	35	Gen Mills	54%				

● Ex dividend. = Cum dividend. & Cum stock split. = Ex stock split. = Cum all (any two or more of above). = Ex all (any two or more of above). Dealing on valuation days: (1) Monday. (2) Tuesday. (3) Wednesday. (4) Thursday. (5) Friday.

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FAMILY MONEY

Edited by Vivien Goldsmith

Credit cards reach age of assent

Vivien Goldsmith in the plastic jungle, where cards have blossomed in the hothouse atmosphere of competition

Consumers now have to decide in advance whether or not they want to use their credit cards to borrow before they can decide which card offers the best value.

They also have to have a good idea how much they will borrow as well as make the right decision about which card to take.

Credit cards used to be simple — they all offered the same terms, and the same rates. But no longer.

The launch of a clutch of new credit cards in the run-up to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report on the industry due in May has demonstrated that diversity does not necessarily sharpen competition.

Consumers can no longer tell which is the cheapest card merely by looking at the annual percentage rate.

Two things have happened to change this. Firstly, the introduction of cards with a fee such as American Express' Optima and the new Visa card from Save & Prosper, has meant that flat-rate calculations no longer work.

If there is a flat fee then the cost of any credit taken will be lower the larger the sum that is borrowed.

Secondly, it is no longer safe to assume that the terms of the card are standard. For instance, Assent, the new card from Barclays Bank, has done away with the interest-free period.

This is a particularly sharp move by Barclays because interest-free period does not come into the calculations for the annual percentage rate on credit cards. So the card which has an annual percentage rate

of 19.9 looks much better value than it actually is.

Assent is not a classic credit card at all, it is a budget card modelled on the cards devised by stores, where cardholders have to pay a set monthly sum and can take credit up to 25 times that amount.

Interest is charged at 1.53 per cent a month, an annual percentage rate of 19.9 per cent.

Barclays promoted the card, which will be available from March 6, by comparing it with the annual percentage rates charged by other cards. It looked very good.

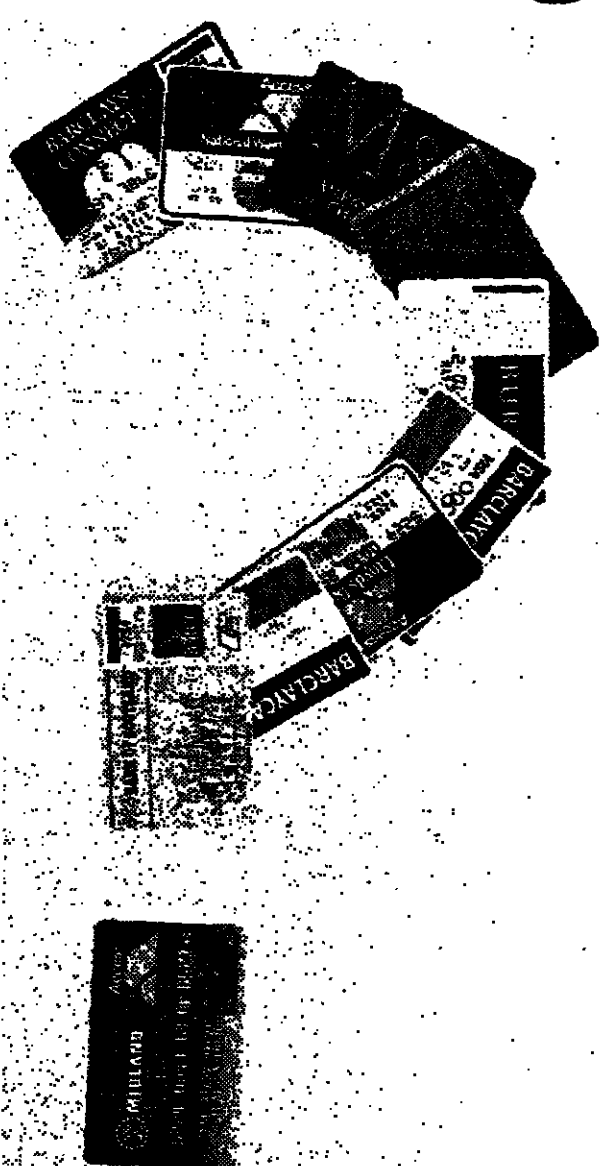
But then it would, because the annual percentage rates on the other cards do not take into account the interest-free period of up to 56 days between making a purchase with a credit card and interest falling due.

Save & Prosper have calculated that the annual percentage rate on their standard card would fall from 22.7 per cent to 20.6 per cent if 30 days' interest-free credit was taken into account.

The minimum monthly payment on Assent is £16, giving a credit limit of £400, and the maximum £300, giving a credit limit of £7,500.

The monthly minimum payment must be made by direct debit and no interest is given on credit balances if this amount is not spent on the card. But Barclays said it would consider introducing interest if there was a demand for it.

There is no fee for the card but Mr Peter Ellwood, chief executive of Barclays Central Retail Services Division, emphasized that although there are



no firm plans to introduce a fee at the moment this could change "in the next year or so."

Anyone who goes more than 3 per cent beyond the credit limit with Assent will be charged £5. The same penalty

will be levied if a direct debit is not paid or the account is more than 21 days late. A £10 charge will be made if a default notice is issued.

Assent, with an annual percentage rate of 19.9 appears to undercut Barclaycard

which has a monthly charge of 2 per cent making an rate of 26.8 per cent — and many other bank credit cards. But it will not appeal to the increasing number of people who use credit cards as a means of payments and clear the balance every month.

But it may be a challenge to the in-house credit cards. Marks and Spencer charges 34.5 per cent apr, Dixons 33.7 per cent and Miss Selfridge 35.4 per cent.

C&A pays interest of 3.76 per cent to customers in credit while charging 29.8 per cent for borrowings.

Mr Ellwood said that the card would appeal to people who had rejected normal credit cards because they wanted to feel their borrowings were "totally under their control". Bank revolving credit accounts are not new. Lloyds already has Cashflow which allows customers to borrow up to 30 times the amount deposited every month.

The interest rate is 1.61 per cent a month an apr of 20.9 per cent. It also has a budget account which uses the co-creation method of money management — customers pay in a twelfth of their estimated annual spending on the account.

There is interest on balances and the same interest rate as Cashflow on borrowings. Nat West also has a budget account. Midland Bank this week launched its new credit card, Indigo, a Visa card which comes with two of the new interest-bearing current accounts — Vector and Meridian.

This card confounds comparison because it is only available at the moment on accounts where there is a £10 a month fee — although this is waived on Meridian if the account is in either credit or deficit by more than £1,000.

The sums are further complicated because the more you

borrow, the lower the rate of interest. Borrowers pay 1.2 per cent a month on sums over £1,000, 1.4 per cent on £500 to £1,000 and 1.6 per cent on smaller amounts.

Amex customers who are being offered the Optima credit card also face a bewildering morass of statistics. While the monthly charge on the card is 1.32 per cent, which is equivalent

to 17 per cent a year. But the annual percentage rate is much higher because of the £10 card fee and the cost of the Amex charge card must be taken into account.

A green Amex card costs £32.50 a year and a gold card £70 a year. So the apr varies according to how much credit is taken. A debt of £2,500 results in an apr of 19 per cent, but a £4,000 loan reduces the annual percentage rate to 18.2 per cent.

Save & Prosper now offers its customers the choice between two Visa cards — a free one which charges 1.725 per cent a month — an apr of 22.7 or a card which costs £8 a year but charges 1.5 per cent month — a typical apr of 19.8 per cent.

Allied Irish Bank's new credit card with a monthly charge of 1.5 per cent — an apr of 19.5 holds out the temptation of a cheque book which will be charged directly to the credit card debt.

This costs £12 a year plus 10p for every cheque. These cheque transactions will not benefit from an interest-free period in the same way as cash withdrawals.

Town & Country rate card.

Founded 1853. Assets exceed £1,500 million. Around 250 branches and agencies. Member of the Building Societies' Association. Shares and deposits in the Society are trustee investments.

SUPER 60

10-15% = 13-53%
9-65% = 12-87%
9-40% = 12-53%

No penalty withdrawal given 60 days' notice or if balance falls below £100. Minimum investment of £500 or £1,000 if monthly income interest rate of 0.25% less than current rate if interest paid half yearly and less if paid monthly.

SUPERSHARES

9-35% = 12-47%
9-15% = 12-20%
8-65% = 11-53%
6-15% = 8-20%

MONEYWISE CHEQUE ACCOUNT

Cheque Book, Cheque Guarantee, Visa Card, Free Bank, Lloyds Cash Machine Card, Direct Debits, Standing Orders.

9-15% = 12-47%
8-65% = 11-53%
6-15% = 8-20%

Non UK Resident Gross Rate account 12.5%. Interest credited or paid annually on 30th June. *Subject to conditions. *Gross equivalent rate to income tax payers at 25%. All rates quoted are variable. Send the coupon now to: Town & Country Building Society, FREEPOST 98, Church Street, Essex, CH1 1HT. Or telephone 0135 122355.

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IF YOU'RE ASTUTE, YOU'LL TAKE THE TOWN & COUNTRY ROUTE.

INVESTMENTS

Bank clients to reap benefits of being all right with Jack

Life after Jack should be somewhat more pleasurable for bank customers. The Jack Committee, set up by the Treasury two years ago to investigate the state of banking legislation, produced its recommendations this week, and came down firmly on the side of the consumer.

The most important recommendation, as far as customers are concerned, is the idea of a new code defining the relationship of banks with their customers — a kind of customers charter.

The idea is not entirely new — Midland Bank, for example, has tinkered with it. But never before has there been a single code agreed by all the banks.

If Professor Robert Jack, chairman of the committee, has his way, the code will clear up crucial grey areas.

Electronic banking has been a particular problem. If something goes wrong with the electronic systems, it is often hard to prove who is at fault. When customers claim that they have been debited for a withdrawal from a cash machine when the money never

actually came out, who is to say whether or not they are telling the truth?

The tendency has often been to assume that the customer is at fault. That is no longer the case. The Jack Committee wants the banks to assume all responsibility for faulty electronic systems. This includes faulty cash dispensers, which usually form the largest single area of complaint to the Banking Ombudsman.

With the growth of electronic banking and cashless shopping, this is an important principle to establish.

The same spirit lies behind the Jack proposal for the Banking Ombudsman to be made statutory, like the Building Societies Ombudsman.

This would strengthen its powers and make it properly independent of the banks which, at present, fund it and could theoretically influence its decisions (although there is no suggestion that they have actually attempted to do this).

The Jack Committee clearly feels that in an age when financial services are becoming

more complicated, technical and computer-driven, the customer needs more safeguards. The natural instinct of bankers is to explain as little as possible to the public.

Under the new charter, they will no longer be able to do that. They will even have to explain such things as bank charges and even the way the clearing system works, if customers want to know.

This is the real significance of the committee's recommendations. Its 80 or more proposals include suggestions for three new banking acts to cover various areas of bank activities.

These are mostly quite technical and would have no great significance for ordinary bank customers.

The committee has reported and most of its ideas have been welcomed by the banks. The question now is how many of them will be put into practice. Only then will customers know how much they have really gained.

Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

Mortgage with added Pep from Dominion

The first mortgage which can be repaid used a personal equity plan has been launched. This takes the freedom of the unit trust mortgage and gives it an extra kick with the taxfree perks of a Pep.

But Dominion Investment Management has chosen a strange time to launch the plan — ahead of the Budget, which may change the ground rules for Peps. Although there is a lobby for income tax relief to be given on sums invested in Peps, it is much more likely that the Chancellor will resist this and just allow larger sums to be invested.

At the moment, the maximum investment in a Pep is £3,000 a year. After one calendar year the income and capital is completely free of all taxes.

Mr John Wilson, managing director of Dominion, has calculated that over 25 years a single person could find a mortgage of £294,000, investing £3,000 a year into a Pep. This assumes an investment return midway between the 8.5 per cent and 13 per cent projections which have to be used under Financial Services Act legislation.

For a £30,000 mortgage over 25 years for a 30-year-old man, Dominion would require £26 a month to be paid into the Pep, plus a further £4 a month for life cover. This £30 a month would be a saving of £7 a month on a typical low-cost endowment.

The Pep mortgage is akin to the pension mortgage, which brings all the tax relief of a



Wilson head of Dominion

pension to mortgages. But there is the great advantage of flexibility.

With a pension the money is locked away and cannot be touched until retirement. But a Pep mortgage — like a unit trust or investment trust mortgage — is much more versatile. Surplus funding can be withdrawn from a Pep mortgage taxfree as long as the cash has been invested for more than a calendar year.

There also has to be, of course, provision for topping up the payments if the investment falls behind or the borrower wants to pay-off the mortgage early.

The money put into the Pep will be managed by Scottish Amicable. After five years, or when the Pep portfolio has grown to £20,000, borrowers will be able to give instructions for particular shares to be bought on their behalf, but before then, the investment decisions will be undertaken

entirely by the Scottish Amicable. There will be an initial charge of 5 per cent and an annual management fee of 1.25 per cent for the first 10 years of the plan and 0.75 per cent thereafter.

The money for the mortgages comes from a variety of building societies, which will charge their own interest rates.

Lloyds Bank, which has the largest slice of the Pep market, says that it has not ruled out launching a Pep mortgage. "We are thinking of thinking about it," said a Lloyds spokesman.

MIM Britannia is enthusiastic about using Peps as a means of promoting tax-efficient unit trust saving. It is promoting a Pep which invests in MIM Britannia's Income & Growth Fund. It expects to be able to launch a Pep mortgage in conjunction with the in-house National Employers Life, which has its own mortgage arm, in the early summer.

Mr Keith Crowley, a director of MIM Britannia unit trust managers, said that the restriction on the amount of unit trusts that could be put into a Pep plan was a handicap. A maximum of £540 a year or £45 a month can be put into unit trusts in a Pep. These figures would be double for two people taking out a joint mortgage.

V.G.

Dominion Investment Management, 120, Church Street, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 1WD.

Which company would you buy your pension from?

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The following table shows the number of times a company has featured in the Top Three positions in surveys of actual results for 10, 15 and 20 year regular contribution with profits personal pension plans carried out by "Planned Savings" magazine, 1974-1988.

COMPANY	1st	2nd	3rd
EQUITABLE LIFE	14	7	1
NFI	4	8	3
PRUDENTIAL	3	4	3
NORWICH UNION	1	2	3
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	1	1	—
SCOTTISH LIFE	1	—	3
SCOTTISH WIDOWS	1	—	2
NATIONAL MUTUAL	1	—	—
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	1	—	—
PROVIDENT MUTUAL	—	2	7
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE	—	1	1
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	—	1	—
SUN ALLIANCE	—	1	—
STANDARD LIFE	—	—	2
EQUITY & LAW	—	—	1
SCOTTISH AMICABLE	—	—	1

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FAMILY MONEY

Going for a killing on the Traded Options Market is not for the faint-hearted, says Hilary Doling

Trading an ulcer for the pot of gold

An unnamed stock market investor hit the headlines this week, when he became a millionaire three times over by gambling on the precarious options market.

He apparently turned his original £9,700 stake into millions by speculating on the level at which the FTSE-100 index would finish the month.

However, before you are tempted to cash in your life savings, make a quick fortune in options and retire to the Bahamas, there are a few things you might care to consider.

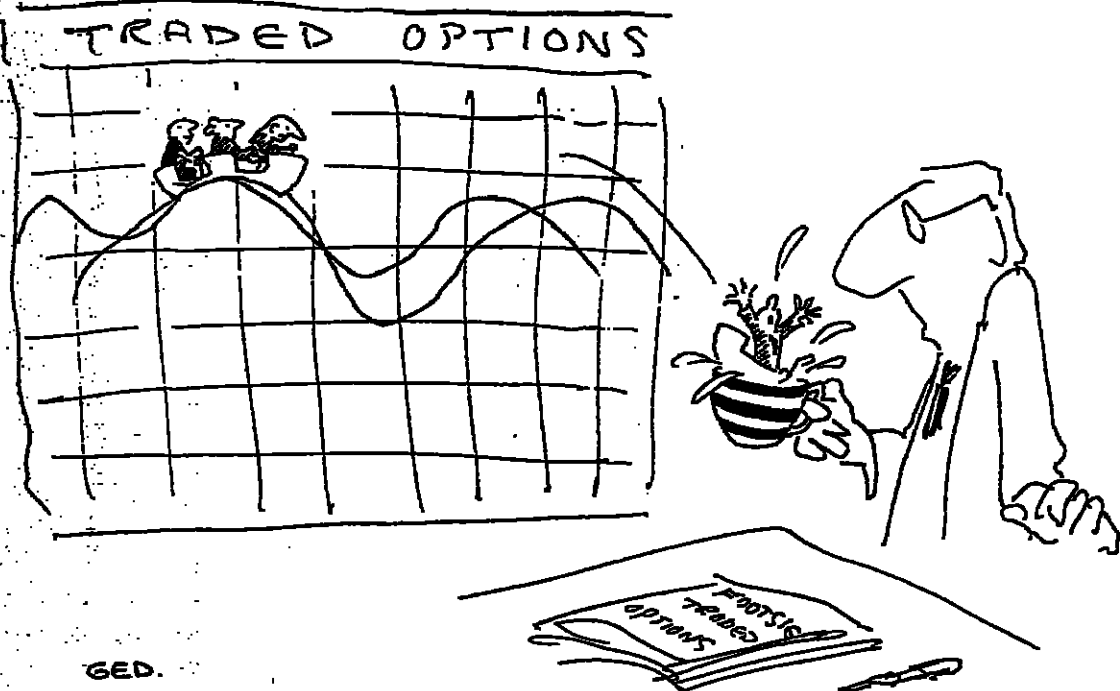
Those who deal in options are playing a hunch, gambling on the fact that their view of the market will be accurate after a set length of time. The idea is that you pay a premium (known as "call"), or sell (known as "put"), any time within a given period.

If you choose not to exercise this right, then you lose the whole premium you paid.

Since 1978 it has been possible to buy and sell options themselves on the London Traded Options Market and for many people the market has become, as one speculator put it, "the best roller coaster ride in town." But it is not for those of nervous disposition.

The LTOM deals in options taken out on UK equities (dealing with around 60 companies) and gilts. It also deals in options taken out on currency and stock indices, like the FTSE-100. Known in the trade as the Footsie - where our mystery investor made his millions.

Investors in the market deal in "contracts," and a contract normally represents an option on 1,000 shares. A traded option has a maximum lifespan of nine months, with expiry dates fixed at three-



monthly intervals. Because the price of options in this market fluctuates as the share price changes they are a very highly geared investment. So that, say, a 20 per cent rise in the share price can raise the value of your option by several hundred per cent.

For example, options in the Trust House Forte 260 March call (meaning you take an option to buy at 260p) were selling at a premium of 9p last December, when the stock was at 252p. Last Thursday you could have sold the option for a premium of 24p. The value of the option thus went up 155 per cent,

while in the same period the share price rose by 12.6 per cent. The problem is that the reverse is also true, so you could make a substantial loss if your view of the market is wrong.

This is very different from investing in the traditional stock market, where, if you exercise poor judgement, you can at least hang on and hope the share price will eventually go up again. With traded options there is no such choice, because you are bound by a time limit.

The biggest losses of all can be made by those who "write" or in other words underwrite the original

option, because they must buy or sell the underlying security if called upon to do so. For a private investor to become a writer is, says the LTOM, "extremely hazardous."

Mr Donald Cornelius, of stockbroker James Capel's traded options department, says that those who invest heavily in the traded options market are out and out gamblers. "It is rather like taking a bet on an outsider in the Grand National," he says. "Most probably you will lose. However, if all the other horses fall at Becher's Brook, you could be very rich indeed."

If you can afford it, a flutter on the

Footsie can be fun, say the experts, but our mystery millionaire would do well to quit while he is ahead.

However, with good advice from your stockbroker traded options can be a useful market. "We would not advise anyone to invest more than 5 per cent, or 10 per cent of their investment portfolio at most, in the traded options market," says Mr James Butler, the traded options specialist at Sheppards, the broker.

However, by paying careful attention to investment strategy you can, he points out, use it to back up your existing shareholding. With good advice you can also invest a fraction of your capital and make as much as if you had invested the whole lot in conventional shares.

Traded options can also be used as a sort of insurance policy for your investment portfolio. This could be done by "hedging" - by taking a put option, so you gain on the roundabout what you lose on the swings.

If you want to play the traded options market the Stock Exchange wisely requires that you first sign a form signifying that you understand what it is all about, and the risks involved. The LTOM issues a range of booklets to help you.

After that, all you need is a good broker who specializes in the options (the LTOM issues a list) and strong nerves.

Further information can be obtained from The London Traded Options Market, The International Stock Exchange, London EC2 1HP.

A booklet on Traded Options Investment Strategy is available from Sheppards, 1, London Bridge, London SE1 9QU, while Citycall operate a traded options tip service (0898 121285) and a strategy line (0898 121280). Calls are charged at a premium rate.

Commissions for independent advisers to increase in May

Commissions paid to independent financial advisers are set to rise in May, ahead of the target date for abandoning a maximum commissions agreement following proposals made this week by the Securities and Investments Board.

Mr Richard Cockcroft, director of practice and development at Fimbra, estimates that commissions could rise by 10 per cent, and welcomed any chance for these indepen-

dent advisers to negotiate their commissions more freely. Tied agents are being offered up to 130 per cent of the rates offered to the independents.

"With Fimbra commission accounting for £1 billion, a 10 per cent increase puts a substantial amount into the sector," he said.

But the Consumers' Association said the proposals were "a seriously retrograde step," and would prejudice the out-

come of consultations still taking place on the regime that is to apply from January 1 1990.

SIB proposes that in the interim period before January, the system of disclosure should be loosened. Thus companies would only have to abandon "soft" disclosure, which tells the client that commissions are in line with the industry guidelines on those products where this applies rather than across the

board if just one product exceeds these guidelines.

The unit trust or life office issuing the product would tell the client the percentage of the investment or premium that will be paid as commission.

Mr Jane Vass, head of the Consumers' Association, said: "We see no possible justification for reducing requirements for hard disclosure in cash terms applying to those independent intermediaries

receiving commissions in excess of the maximum commissions agreement.

"If consumers are to be protected from unrestrained bidding up of commissions, disclosure must be at point of sale and in cash terms."

Under the proposals for the final scheme, company salesmen would not have to disclose any information about commissions or expenses, but would merely have to state that they are tied agents. SIB

says that many comments on the original proposals argued that the status declarations should be made even sharper, and this is under consideration.

It might, for instance, force company representatives to reveal not only that they represent one company, but also state that they are not in a position to give independent advice.

Vivien Goldsmith



Traditional: a nursery for children of London NHS workers

Luncheon vouchers can be child's play

Child care vouchers are being studied by British companies as an attractive alternative to workplace nurseries in their bid to recruit women.

Miss Sue Harvey, sales and marketing director of Luncheon Vouchers, said many companies were planning to introduce the vouchers, which can be exchanged for cash, because they are exempt from national insurance contributions.

By contrast, workplace nurseries are treated as a perk. Since 1984 employees making use of nurseries have had to pay tax on employers' contributions, as well as paying their own share out of taxed income. Employees are only exempt if they earn less than £8,500 a year.

The voucher scheme will give working mothers the freedom to choose a child-minder instead of being forced to take their children to a workplace nursery or leave them at home. They will be able to offer the voucher to their child-minder who will be able to exchange it for cash.

Miss Harvey is hoping to meet Government officials at the Department of Social Security to ensure that a contributory scheme, whereby the company would pay 60 per cent of the costs to the employee's 40 per cent, would not attract national insurance payments.

A September launch is planned for the scheme. Several high street retailers and banks have expressed interest. Blue Arrow Personnel Ser-

vices is the first British company to publicly consider introducing the vouchers.

Miss Harvey believes the child care voucher scheme will be particularly useful to working mothers who use relatives to look after their children. A report by the European Commission, *Caring for Children '88*, showed that 47 per cent of British working mothers use relatives as child-minders.

Miss Harvey has been researching into the three-year-old child care voucher scheme operated by Voucher Corporation, Accor's American subsidiary.

She said the "work/family juggling act" is a major cause of stress to women. "Child care breakdown" - the unexpected collapse of a family's usual child care arrangement due to the illness of a minder - significantly added to the stress of working parents.

Miss Harvey said: "Employers can reduce this stress by supporting the child care needs of their employees by instituting various flexible personnel policies, often with no increase in direct benefit expenses."

These include flexitime, sick child care leave, part time schedules, job sharing, extended maternity and paternity benefits, and work-at-home plans. However, the voucher programme proved the most popular by giving parents full responsibility for choosing their own child care provider.

Roland Rudd
Employment Affairs Reporter

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Christian Children's Fund of Great Britain.

When you leave a job how can you stop your pension freezing?

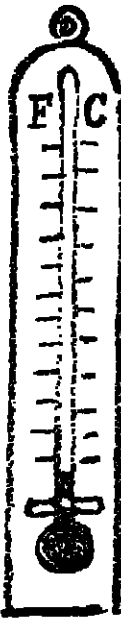
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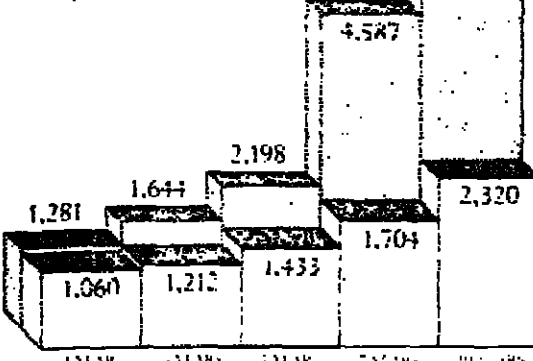
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FLEMINGS INVESTMENT TRUSTS

FAMILY MONEY

Go offshore before March 14

Dorothy Lawson has a timely look at

pre-Budget planning

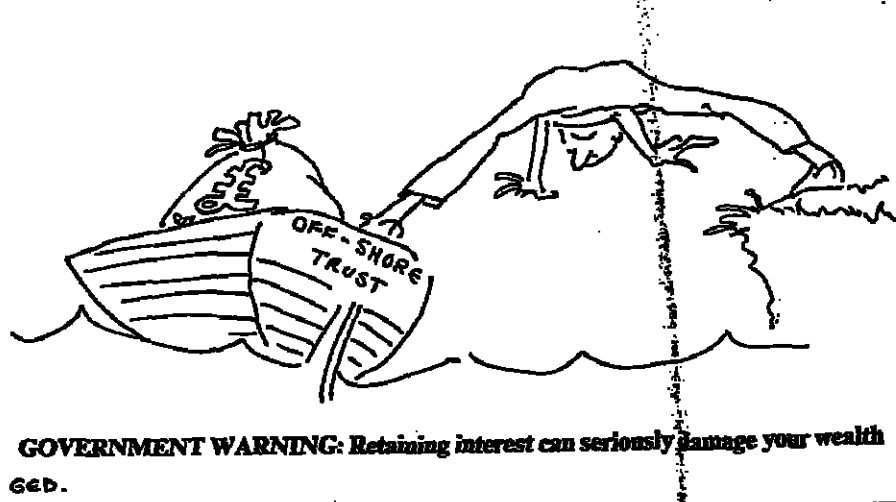
The buzz word this year on pre-Budget planning is "offshore." Accountants are counselling their wealthier clients to look at non-resident or offshore trusts before March 14.

They are advising clients to convert existing trusts into offshore trusts by changing the trustees.

The professional advisers' strategy is based on the assumption that arrangements in place by Budget day should not be affected by any new anti-avoidance rules. The trouble is that Mr Nigel Lawson does not always play the game according to the professionals' rules. The anti-avoidance rules on British trusts which he introduced in last year's Finance Act were fully retrospective.

Under present rules, trusts which are resident in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man are regarded as not being resident in this country. Such trusts are not subject to capital gains tax. A tax charge may arise for beneficiaries resident in Britain, but this applies only when the trustees make capital payments to the beneficiaries and thus there can be a deferment of capital gains tax on an indefinite basis.

Where a trust resident in Britain is concerned, the key question is whether the person who created it (the settlor) retained an interest. If he did,



GOVERNMENT WARNING: Retaining interest can seriously damage your wealth

the trustees may have to pay tax on their gains at the top rate of 40 per cent. This rule, which was introduced after the publication of the original Finance Bill, applies to all gains realized after April 5, 1988. Furthermore - and this is particularly significant - it applies to all trusts where the settlor has retained an interest, regardless of whether they were set up before or after the law was changed.

Nevertheless, there are steps which wealthy individuals could adopt and which stand a reasonable chance of succeeding. The selection of the appropriate strategy depends on working out in greater depth what type of anti-avoidance rules are likely to be introduced in the Budget. Unfortunately, I have no inside knowledge (despite my surname), but the main op-

tions for Mr Lawson would appear to be as follows:

• Channel Islands: To be brought into UK "net"? There would be big constitutional problems in extending the British tax legislation to cover residents of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Doing this is probably unthinkable for a Conservative Government.

On the other hand, there are precedents for treating trusts which become resident in the Channel Islands in future as if they were still resident in Britain for CGT purposes. One might find that tax assessed on the trust could be collected from the settlor if the trustees refused to apply. This has also been done in the past. • Expert charge. At the moment, there is no general principle that a disposal is deemed to take place when an

existing trust is "exported." This type of "exit" charge was introduced last year for companies (which cease to be resident in Britain and a similar charge for trusts would seem to be logical. If things stop here, the pre-Budget scramble will have succeeded. In practice, this is unlikely to be the end of the story.

• Tax charge for beneficiaries. As a matter of fact, this would not be completely new. Between 1965 and 1981, the legislation enabled the Inland Revenue to charge beneficiaries resident in Britain the tax on gains realized by non-resident trustees.

The legislation gave the Revenue power to "apportion" the trust gains among the beneficiaries. Re-introducing this rule would scrap the best laid plans of solicitors and accountants, but it is

unlikely. The law was changed in 1981 because it was found to be unworkable. It was manifestly ridiculous when the House of Lords ruled in *Leedale v Lewis* that the beneficiary could be charged tax on capital gains that he might never receive.

• Tax charge on settlers who retain an interest. The most likely outcome is that the rule on trusts resident in Britain will simply be extended to cover offshore trusts. This would also mean that the CGT legislation would be brought into line with the income tax rules. The result would be that a settlor who retained an interest could be charged tax on the trustees' gains, whether or not they are distributed to him. Other beneficiaries of the trust would still be chargeable.

The above treatment broadly corresponds to what happens for income tax purposes. A person who makes a transfer of assets may be assessed as income arises overseas and so can a spouse. Other people who might benefit ("non-transferees") are charged tax only as and when they actually receive benefits. Some advisers believe that the advantages of offshore trusts will last for a long time yet.

One specialist admitted that the biggest worry among professionals is the introduction of anti-avoidance legislation aimed at settlers who retain an interest. A lot will depend upon the precise wording of any such legislation. However, he believes that it might still be possible to avoid the full impact of such legislation by re-exporting the trusts.

Disconnections of water in Bath

From the chairman of Wessex Water

Sir, Maggie Drummond, ("A dusty answer for those unable to pay," *Family Money*, February 18) quotes a manager of the Bath Citizens' Advice Bureau as encountering "horrible cases" of disconnection in the Bath area.

I have investigated all cases of disconnection in that water area and found that the full disconnection procedure was followed; negotiations took well over a year, there was full consultation with appropriate organizations such as social services, and a county court order was obtained.

Disconnection procedures were fully supported by the

LETTERS

Independent Customer Consultative Committee covering the Bath area, which includes a representative of the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

All those disconnected have a charge below £100 per year and Wessex offers monthly payments; a payment of £8 per month can hardly be described as "dauntingly large."

Wessex appreciates many council house tenants will be seeing a separate water bill for the first time in their lives; we take particular care to inform people of all payment options available.

But arrangements for water authorities to take back collection of charges from local authorities are nothing to do with privatization.

We have 980,000 customer accounts, and disconnected just 32 domestic customers for non-payment in the four years 1984 to 1988.

The water authorities sup-

port the Government's code of practice which goes further than any other utility commitment to standards of service for customers and is yet another reason to support the privatization of the water authorities.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HOOD,
Chairman of Wessex Water,
Wessex House,
Passage Street,
Bristol.

• The Water Authorities Association points out: Disconnections were 6,813 in 1981-2 not 1,171, making recent increases a rise from 0.05 per cent to 0.07 per cent.

"The reasons for the increase in disconnections are perfectly clear. Water Authorities cannot justify to their customers excessive delay in obtaining payments from those who can afford to pay, but have paid little or nothing for this essential service for in some cases three or five years."

Means testing of pensions

From Mrs Ruth Solomon

Sir, We are retired teachers, and my husband was looking forward to receiving his state pension this month.

He was given a forecast of the amount he should receive, which was swiftly followed by a notification that we shall be paying more tax once his pension is in operation.

Just before Christmas we were notified that his pension will be quite a bit lower than forecast, because of my teacher's occupational pension. I contributed towards this, and it is taxed before I get it.

We can apparently appeal against this bombshell, but it seems the decision was made by an "adjudicator" - about whom we knew nothing. Means testing of pensions was supposed to be under consideration, but it appears to be already in operation. Is this the case?

Yours faithfully,
Ruth Solomon,
Hartington Road,
Twickenham,
Middlesex.

I am at a loss to know why your husband's state pension (presumably his retirement pension) has suddenly been reduced and I can only suppose that he has somehow become entangled in the so-called "earnings" rule.

This applies where a pensioner's earnings from continuing employment (part or whole-time) exceed £75 in one week. But I can see no justification for applying this restriction to your own pension and I wonder if there has been a misunderstanding by the adjudicator: does he believe your pension is earnings from your continuing to work?

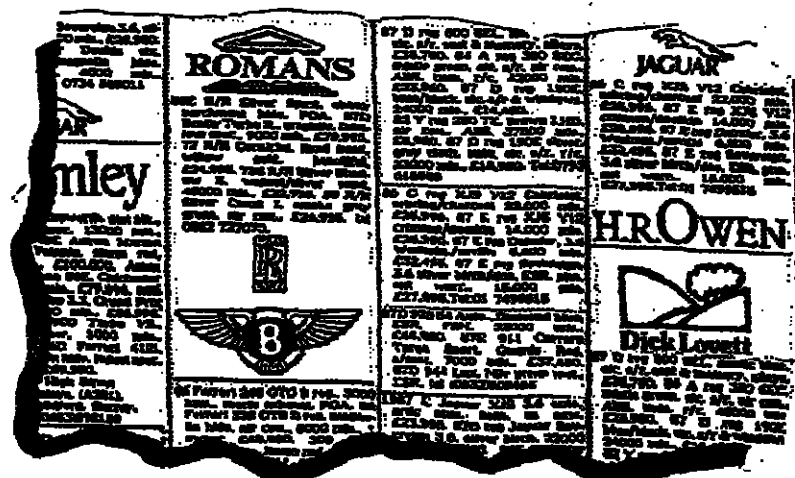
I suggest you write to whoever is concerned with dealing with appeals, explaining what your own and your husband's sources of income are and asking for an explanation or confirmation that your husband's pension will be paid without this restriction.

Published replies marked with the triangle logo are by Gill Packer, the partner at accountants Topley Rice, in consultation with The Times. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or otherwise in these columns and independent professional advice should always be sought.

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FAMILY MONEY

Softer approach to mortgage arrears

By Hugh Thompson

Next week Town & Country Building Society will issue a new leaflet, called *Help With Your Mortgage*.

The leaflet represents a significant softening of the society's attitude. Miss Karin Maker, customer liaison officer, says: "In the past we have been particularly hard on people who fall behind in their payments."

"Now we are pointing out to those who go into arrears that there are a variety of options

open to them. These include interest-only payments, extending the life of the mortgage to 40 years, and paying back arrears on a monthly basis. We are anxious to show that we are a more caring society to those who have genuine reasons, such as sickness or redundancy, for going into arrears."

The move is another indication of building societies' changing attitudes to mortgage arrears—a change which

has contributed to the number of repossession falling dramatically.

Figures released this week by the Building Society Association show that there were 6,380 repossessions in the second half of 1988—37 per cent down on the first half of 1988 and 43 per cent down on the same period in 1987. But although arrears over six months also showed a significant decline, shorter term arrears were up.

Charles Jackson on the charge that has caused controversy in the community

Love it or loathe it, few will escape the poll tax

The poll tax, or community charge as the Government would have us call it, is coming. There is considerable opposition to the charge by both members of the public and local government officials, some of whom have argued in favour of refusing to co-operate with collection.

However, several experts and politicians have counselled against taking this illegal course.

Scotland will be hit first, with England not facing the charge until 1990. But what does it all mean?

The 1988 Local Government Finance Act contains a number of provisions to reform the present system of local government finance. In particular, it states that domestic rates will be replaced with a locally determined flat-rate community charge, payable by almost all adults. The charge will take three forms:

- Personal community charge
- Standard community charge
- Collective community charge

Charges will be levied by the authorities on all persons, others than those classified as exempt. A register will be compiled and maintained by each local Community Charge Registration Officer.

Taking the three types of charge in order, the first is the Personal Community Charge. This will be paid by Mr, Mrs and Miss Average—in other words, any person aged 18 or more who is solely or mainly resident in the area of a charging authority.

People of opposite sexes married or cohabiting as husband and wife will be jointly and severally liable—that is, although each will be billed separately, if one defaults the other will be expected to pay both bills. However, parents with adult children who default will not be expected to pay for them.

Students will be treated on a

slightly different basis. They will have to pay the full charge during holidays, for example, but on those days in which they are attending a full-time course of education they will only be required to pay a fifth of the charge.

The charge in both cases will be that levied in the area of their term-time address.

Standard Community Charge This will be levied against the owner, or—if let on a lease of more than six months, the leaseholder—of a house which is not the sole or main residence of any person.

This would, for example, include those who have a second home.

The charge can be a fraction of the personal community charge, or up to twice as much. The level will be decided by each charging authority.

Collective Community Charge This will be levied against landlords of those properties in which people stay as their main residence for short periods, and where it will be difficult to collect individual personal community charges.

People living in the property will pay contributions towards the collective charge at a daily rate.

Landlords will be required to keep records of short-stay residents showing the length of residence and the amount that they have paid towards the total charge.

Landlords will be allowed to keep 5 per cent of the total collected, as a collection fee.

Certain categories of people may be exempt from either the personal community charge or from their liability for contributions towards the collective charge.

These are the severely mentally impaired; those solely or mainly resident in hospitals; those solely or mainly resident in residential care homes; those serving prison sentences or held on remand; those for whom child benefit is payable—that is, children under 19 and still at school; volunteer

care workers; the homeless; members of religious communities who are wholly supported by the communities; diplomats and members of international headquarters; and visiting servicemen.

People with severe mental impairments are unlikely to be able to vote and therefore will not be subject to the charge.

However, people with physical disabilities may qualify for a rebate called the community charge benefit which will be available to those on low incomes.

Since everything is calculated on a daily basis, it is possible for a person to be exempt one day and not the next.

It will be up to each individual to advise the local Community Charge Registration Officer of any change in their circumstances. Community charge benefit will be available to people on low incomes who are liable either for the personal community charge or for contributions payable to a landlord for collective community charge purposes.

The CCB will not be available to those paying standard community charge, or students who are already registered as being liable to pay only 20 per cent of the charge.

CCB can only be awarded if it is claimed. A person is entitled to claim during the 13 weeks prior to which he believes liability is about to start, or in anticipation of a change in circumstances. However, where people are

already claiming Housing Benefit, good practice suggests the authority should write to claimants enclosing a claim form and a charge comes into effect.

Similarly, the Department of Social Security should contact all Income Support claimants using them of their right to claim CCB.

Where both partners in a couple are liable for the personal community charge, they will have separate accounts, will receive separate demand notices, if entitled to CCB, will receive a separate rebate.

How, one partner must claim on behalf of both. Where one is unable to act on her own behalf, then it is in order for someone else to make the claim on their behalf.

Where a claimant is already receiving Housing Benefit or Income Support, local authorities will simply award a full 80 per cent CCB without any need for further calculations (except, every body has a minimum of 20 per cent of their community charge liability).

In all cases the local authority will make its own assessment of the claimant's resources.

The rebate will be similar to that employed for Housing Benefit calculations. In brief, it means that where the claimant's capital holdings exceed an amount—likely to be £100 or £2,000—they will be entitled to CCB.

Otherwise the authority will come to a claimant's needs or able amount with them.

Where a partner in a joint income is assessed and combined with the applicable for the couple. A joint entitlement to fill then be divided between them.

Pip of an idea for discipline in saving

The gentle drip, drip, drip of a savings scheme is just the sort of cautious investment approach suited to these uncertain times.

But Dunbar Boyle & Kingsley, the broker, realised that brokers and their clients were missing out on the discipline of regular investments, and the benefits of pound-cost averaging. So it has started its own scheme, the Phased Investment Programme—Pip for short—which invests directly in blue chip equities rather than unit or investment trusts.

The minimum investment is £30,000, and the plan is only open to those with at least £100,000 in free assets.

The idea is that the capital sum is handed over to the brokers. It earns interest in a Royal Bank of Scotland account. A twelfth of the initial deposit is taken out each month and put into a single equity. The only charges are stockbroker commission of 1.65 per cent plus VAT.

Clients can over-ride the programme if they object to any of the proposed purchases, and substitute their own choice.

Among the schemes which feed into unit trusts are Mercury's Capital Investment Plan, where a minimum of £1,000 is placed in a building society account and fed into a Mercury unit trust over two years through a savings plan. Garmore also has a drip-feed scheme, called the Capital Development Plan.

Garmore makes a 3 per cent administration charge, deducted at the outset, then the remaining sum earns money-market rates. A twelfth of it is invested in a Garmore unit trust each month for a year, and at the end of the year there is a loyalty bonus of 1 per cent.

While Mercury takes 2.5 per cent of the total sum out of the first investment, and then makes a 2 per cent initial charge rather than the usual 5 per cent, there is also a 1 per cent loyalty bonus at the end of the two years plus extra investment from the interest built up in the society account.

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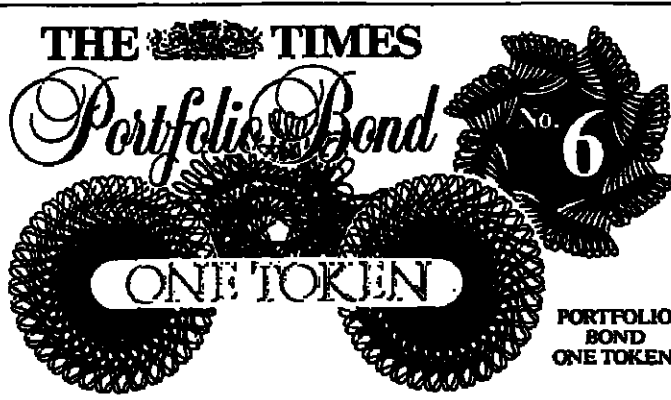
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FAMILY MONEY

Snowed under by skiing mishaps

As the slopes grow ever more crowded, so the chance of accidents increases.

Hugh Thompson tells a cautionary tale

This time last year, Miss Linda Tillman and Miss Anne Stainton, from Chiswick, London, went skiing at Barmèges, in the French Pyrenees. It will be a long time before they go skiing again.

On the second day of their holiday, the two experienced skiers, Miss Tillman, a pharmacist, was a veteran of seven years on the slopes — decided to go up on the long Coubère Lift.

"It was one of those chairs with a footrest and a safety bar," Miss Tillman says. "Unlike other ski lifts, there were not only wires above the chair, but between the pylons to the right. It was a very windy day, which made both the chair and the wire swing from side to side."

The wire caught the footrest and started to pull the chair into the line of the pylons. "We tried to free the chair with our sticks, but it was too tight," Miss Tillman says.

"After a while, the chair stopped. Everyone was screaming and we thought 'Should we jump?' But since we were about 30 feet off the ground we thought it would be better to wait for help."

Then the chair started moving again. Mr Derek Ferguson, who was in the chair behind the two women, says: "It was like a slow-motion Hitchcock horror film as the ladies were dragged towards the pylon."

The force exerted by the cable on the footrest caused the footrest to bend their seat and the safety bar to

crush their legs. "Linda's leg seemed to be pulled behind the seat as her ski tip hit the pylon. It looked as if her leg was being pulled off," Mr Ferguson says.

Miss Tillman continues: "There seemed no question of what was going to happen. We were either going to be chopped in half, thrown 30 feet to the ground, or electrocuted. The only thing one didn't know was which would happen first."

Help arrived, but did not know what to do. More help arrived — without the essential cutters which would free the women. In the end they spent an hour-and-a-half in their twisted ski chair.

Eventually they were cut down and helicoptered to hospital. Before they left the resort, the Commune of Barmèges wrote expressing its regret at the accident, and offered them a free holiday the following year.

When the pair returned to England they approached their travel insurance company to make a claim. But the company's insurance only covered them for the cost of medical treatment in France, not for the cost of medical treatment in France, not for the cost of medical treatment in France.

"They were put in to a very precise equation," says Mr Paul Maxlow-Tomlinson. He is trying to win a five-figure sum for Miss Tillman of solicitors in Exeter, Devon, but it is likely to be another six months — 18 months become something of an accident — before the growing field she can expect to see any of the compensation she has earned.

He says: "Two years ago there were hardly any making such claims — can be a



Still suffering: Linda Tillman's right leg was badly injured in a skiing accident last year

hazardous business is that in France the winner does not have his costs paid by the loser. The costs, of course, include the expense of hiring lawyers in both countries.

In addition, the French courts accept medical evidence only from accredited French doctors. This meant that the girls had to travel to France to be examined.

It took Miss Tillman nine months to recover from her injuries, and her right leg is still weaker than the left. The accident also left a long indented area on her thigh. "For nearly two hours I was tortured," she says. "I feel that I should be given at least enough so that I can go away and have a good holiday."

Mr Maxlow-Tomlinson

SAFETY FIRST

The FIS Code of Conduct for skiers states that, like all other sports, skiing is risky, and carries certain civil and penal responsibilities, such as:

● Respect for others
A skier must behave in such a way that he does not endanger or prejudice others.

● Control of speed and skiing
A skier must adapt his speed and way of skiing to his personal ability and to prevailing conditions of terrain and weather.

● Control of direction
A skier coming from above, whose dominant position allows him a choice of path, must take a direction that assures the safety of the skier below.

● Overtaking
It is permitted to overtake another skier going down or up to the right or left, but always leaving a wide enough margin for the overtaken skier to make his turns.

● Duties of a skier crossing the course
A skier wishing to enter a course or passing a training ground must look up and down to make sure he can do so without danger to himself or others.

● Stopping on the course
If it is not absolutely necessary a skier must avoid a stop on the course, especially in narrow passages or where visibility is restricted. In case of a fall a skier must leave the course free as soon as possible.

● Climbing
A climbing skier must keep to the side of the course and in bad visibility keep off the course entirely. The same goes for a skier who descends on foot.

● There is a duty to offer assistance at accidents
● Everybody at the scene of an accident, whether responsible or not, must establish his identity

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Spitfire BES to focus



Spitfire Television is injecting a little glamour into the sea of Business Expansion Schemes being launched before the Budget (Hilary Doting writes).

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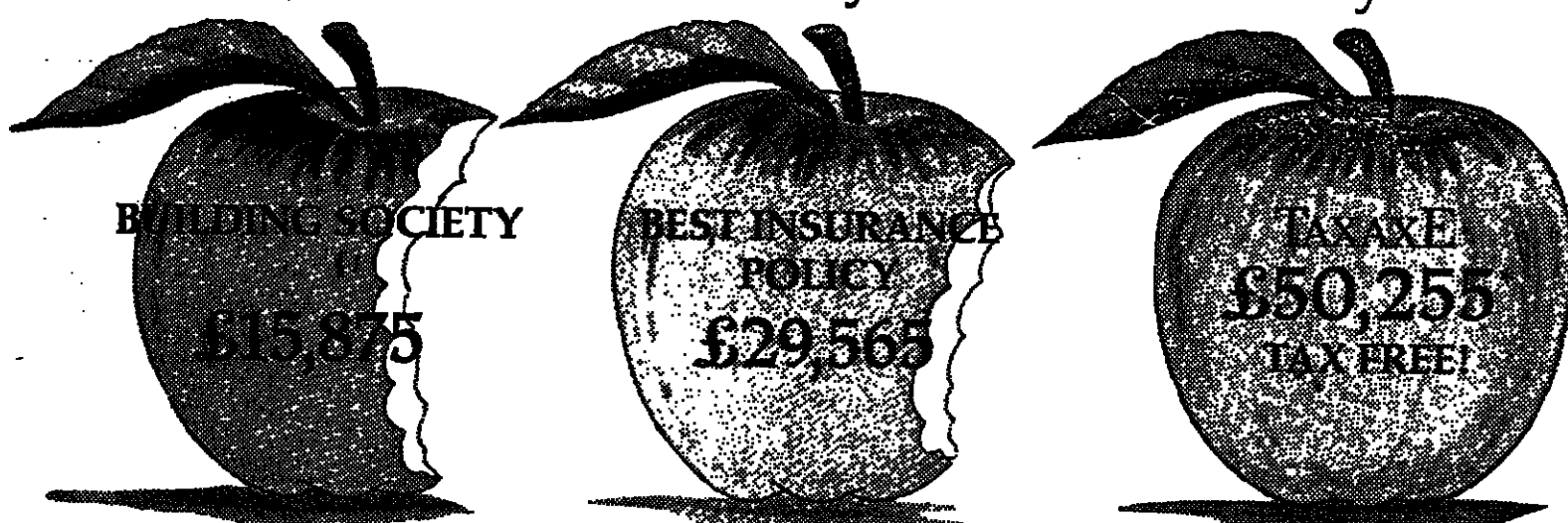
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and independent producers. Mr Stefan Sargent, the chairman (above), believes that the volume of new programming required by television and the latest satellite services will treble by the 1990s. It made profits of £293,000 in the year to end October and expects £653,000 by 1991.

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PART II

G A -the muse o

New York's first sight of nervous little Spaniard scared he returned in 1940, he was

New York in 1934 was ready for someone like Dali. The newspapers were filled with European madness of a more sinister kind: Hitler's continued rise to power in Germany. Now there was Dali, a harmless eccentric, steaming past the Statue of Liberty like an intellectual travelling salesman, his case stuffed with soft watches.

The first sight of Dali revealed a nervous little Spaniard with an 8ft French loaf under his arm, and at least a dozen paintings attached to himself with string. Dali was afraid of thieves. New York, he had heard, was a rough place. What caught the newsmen's attention was a realistic portrait of Gala with a pork chop on each shoulder like a general's epaulettes.

A great debate arose over the pork chops on Gala's shoulders. Were they raw or cooked? In his discourse to the gaping journalists, Dali explained that they represented his misplaced desire to cannibalize Gala. Flashbulbs popped and the newsmen rushed off to Manhattan to report on the mad artist with the moustache and his inedible companion.

From that moment on, it became impossible to see Gala for the pork chops. Although Dali exhibited all the subtlety of a three-ring circus, Gala was his opposite in that respect. In public, she was his product. Gala was as much of his art as the limp watches and the crucifixes. In private she nagged and dominated him, dressed him and practically tied his shoelaces. She handled business, set the prices and eagerly counted the money.

Gala was his critic, too. She understood his art and would argue over the theme and content of a painting. Sometimes Dali listened, but just as often he grew angry and stubbornly resisted her suggestions, arguing that it was he, after all, who was the artist. When this happened, Gala invariably stormed from the studio. Their quarrels usually ended several hours later, according to one witness, Catalina Romans, with Dali shouting out "Olive!" — he called her that — "come and give me a hug." And she would, too. A hug for her Dali... her pet name for him.

Gala gave her past over to Dali; she became his fiction, his secret. Anyone who dared pry into any aspect of her private life was slapped down with a curt "none of your business". Her secrecy was calculated to enhance their surrealist mystique. As Dali once explained cryptically: "Gala had the secret of remaining within my secret. Often people thought they had discovered my secret, but this was impossible, because it was not my secret but Gala's."

If Gala was not an exhibitionist, there was, however, one time during their first visit to New York when she unwittingly found herself at the centre of a furious scandal. On their last night in America, Caresse Crosby, the

and all Gala to do was set the price tag. Tim McGirk describes the best — and worst — years



widow of an American banker, who had helped persuade them to come to America, threw a firewell party, the first surrealist ball held in America.

The guests were a potent mixture of art gallery owners and high-society people, who took a crash course in surrealism. The socialites were fast learners. The macabre costumes they dreamed up for this fancy-dress ball astonished even Dali. Respectable society women turned up at the Coq Rouge restaurant wearing bird-cages around their heads and little else. The carcass of a cow hung from the ceiling stuffed with record players.

By comparison to the outlandish creations of the New York belles, Gala's and Dali's costumes seemed downright prudish. He went with a glass chest attached to his midriff containing a woman's brassiere. As for Gala, Dali dressed her as an "Exquisite Corpse", from the surrealist parlour game of the same name. On her head was perched a doll, crawling with ants, whose head was being squeezed by a phosphorescent lobster.

It seemed uncontroversial enough, but at the time New York was reeling from the trial of Bruno Hauptmann for the kidnap and murder of Charles Lindbergh's baby. A French journalist in New York, scraping for a story, suggested that Gala's baby resembled the Lindbergh's dead child, and

that, although a dash of artistic scandal never hurt, this was just the kind of sordid Press attention that could instantly kill Dali's rapid success in America.

Their first visit to the US lasted only a few weeks, but Dali and Gala had earned more publicity and more money than was possible in Paris. Gala adopted the habit of demanding to be paid either in cash — dollars preferably — or with a money order. Too many cheques in the past had bounced; too many dealers had gone bust.

Later, Gala learnt a trick over the telephone, once a line was installed at Port Lligat, their home in Spain. She would agree verbally to a price in pesetas and then pretend that she had made the deal in dollars.

Long after he and Gala sailed back across the Atlantic, the American public would continue to hear about Dali. *Time* magazine chose Dali for its cover story on surrealism. His paintings soared in value. It became the risqué fad among very rich Americans to have their portrait done by Dali, even if the results were shocking.

On a brief return to Spain in January 1934, the couple were married in a civil ceremony. The reasons for the marriage were more practical than emotional. Under Spanish law, Gala stood to lose all of Dali's wealth — and much of her own — if he died or went insane.

They were soon back in America, and Dali landed himself on the front pages again, by being arrested. The large New York department store, Bonwit Teller, had commissioned him to design two window displays. Dali and Gala had worked through the night, lining an old bathtub with black lambswool, filling it with water and floating a few arms holding mirrors in the mess.

They strolled down Fifth Avenue the next afternoon, curious about New Yorkers' reactions. It seems the store had so many complaints from window-shoppers that Dali's artwork was censored in his absence. A robe was draped around the mannequin stepping into the tub. Dali was enraged. He stormed into the window display, knocking the tub through the window and, somehow, the next moment stepped out on to the pavement between sheets of falling glass.

A passing detective immediately arrested him on a charge of malicious mischief. The night-court judge, however, more accustomed to gangsters and thieves, suspended Dali's sentence because, he opined: "These are some of the privileges that an artist with temperament seems to enjoy."

In 1939 the couple returned to live in Arcachon, a *fin de siècle* resort much in vogue with Pa-



Birds of a feather: at Port Lligat, Gala would agree to a price in pesetas over the phone, and then pretend that she had made the deal in dollars

risian writers and actors. Dali painted demonically, immersing himself in the alchemy of amber oils, paint and varnish as if he were seeking some chemical combination that could transform the madness of Europe's war, and its invasion of his own psyche, more exactly on to canvas.

Picasso's Guernica horses and people were splintered in agony; Dali's response was intellectual. He saw the war as a tradition trying to reassert itself against the "deficiencies" of modernity and revolutions of our sceptical, formless epoch. As he painted, Gala read him books on science, philosophy, metaphysics, architecture — anything that could give him a vision of the world that lay beyond the darkness of war.

The Dalis renewed their friendship with the artist Marcel Duchamp and the fashion designer Coco Chanel. For an artist, Dali was rich, but that did not stop Gala from badgering Chanel to give her gowns at bargain prices or, preferably, for nothing. Gala would wear these creations until they disintegrated, 20 years later. As the war got closer, Dali persuaded Gala to return to Paris to secure the paintings left behind in their flat, before they fled to America. There was no question of Dali going himself. If recognized, he would be immediately arrested by the Gestapo.

Continued overleaf



Images of Gala: Dali often wrote that he found her a sexual and desirable woman, but he found it impossible to paint this aspect of her nature



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Gala realized that every
up of paper on which
li signed his name
s worth something'

the Bonwit Teller scandal. Other painters of the surrealist movement might have been more acclaimed — René Magritte or Max Ernst, for example — but Dalí happily waxed his moustache, twirled his cane and became surrealism personified. All Gala could not resist. There he painted portraits of film moguls, actresses and actors, often charging up to \$25,000. Even Greta Garbo was coaxed out of her seclusion. Garbo was Dalí's favourite actress, and he looked forward to her visit with near hysteria. He decided to dress himself up as a suave film star. Hours before the appointed time, the nervous Dalí had already pomaded his hair and waxed his over his outfit, he finally selected a shimmering satin suit which he wore with a starched shirt and tie. Garbo came late as usual, wearing men's chinos and tennis shoes. She took one look at Dalí and said: "One of us has got this wrong. Why don't we try again?" She kissed Dalí full on the lips and departed without another word. Dalí was speechless; he hated being kissed on the mouth, even by Garbo. They never met again. From the mid-1940s onwards Gala seems to have become convinced that everyone — even her family — was grasping for a piece of Dalí's hard-earned fortune, and that she had to fight them off.

The people who were probably Gala and Dalí's closest friends through the years were Reynolds Morse, a plain-talking Coloradan from a rich mine-owning family, and his wife Eleanor. In 1942 they wandered into a Manhattan gallery and saw a small canvas that intrigued them. Gala, however, shocked Morse. As he explained: "She invited me up to their room. Dalí wasn't around. Gala brought out some of Dalí's erotic drawings and then said something like: 'There's more where that came from.' And then she propositioned me. I said 'No' as politely as I could. Gala wasn't my type. Besides, I'd just gotten married to Eleanor and Gala was old enough to be my mother. Thank God she wasn't, though."

When Gala and Dalí both grew old and sick, Morse cared for them and found them hospitals and good doctors. The Morises, however, found Gala and Dalí to be companions who were charming, but who never once dropped their guard over more than four decades. Reynolds Morse commented: "We tried to be friends but they always treated us as clients, as pigeons to be plucked."

By the late 1940s, with the couple back in Spain, Dalí's artistic reputation was sliding. Abstract art was what the galleries were clamouring for now. And, of course, there was the bomb. For Dalí, his paranoid-critical method and the theories of the subconscious he had ransacked from Freud were melted away by Hiroshima's heat. Dalí was searching for unity, something that could bear witness to the universe that lay beyond the shattered atom. That something was religion.

Slowly Dalí's mysticism took form, and the shape it assumed

He painted her as the Madonna of Port Lligat, in angelic levitation above the fishermen in their boats on the sea. There was no change in Gala's behaviour to warrant this idealization — she was still the prowling seductress of young men, the arrogant and ruthless keeper of Dalí. Dalí's biographer, Meryle Secrest, suggests that Gala's canonization reflected a change in Dalí's psyche. "Just as she . . . was from now on to be put on a pedestal as the Virgin Mary, so he, who had spent so many years trying to come to terms with male-female sexuality, had settled into his role of voyeur and given up."

It took Dalí a good three years after falling in love with Gala to feature her prominently on canvas. It was not until 1933, with "Gala and the Angelus of Millet Preceding the Imminent Arrival of the Conic Anamorphoses", that Gala was awarded more than a walk-on part. Here she is disturbing and certainly not attractive.

Then, in 1935, "Portrait of Gala" showed her looking as dumpy and severe as the peasant woman in the painting of Millet's "Angelus" which hangs above her. In his erotic writings Dalí would have us believe that he found Gala to be a sexual, desirable woman, but he could not paint this aspect of her nature, at least not by showing her face. His most erotic portrait of Gala is a nude study of her back. She sits with her legs crossed as if she were waiting on a rumpled bed for another session with her lover.

Port Lligat was not New York or Paris; the number of beautiful subjects that Dalí and Gala could lure into their separate webs was much reduced. They needed a go-between. Oddly enough, they were to locate such a person — part procurer, press agent and fixer — in the Vatican. In November 1949, Dalí had finished "The Madonna of Port Lligat" and wanted it blessed by the Pope. Dalí was approached by an elegant and charming Irishman, John Peter Moore, who was working for the Vatican's propaganda department. Within 24 hours, Moore had arranged a private interview with Pope Pius XII. The pontiff was reportedly impressed by "The Madonna of Port Lligat".

The Dalís eventually took Moore on as "military attaché". His brisk efficiency, his gift for languages and his canny art of serving Dalí and Gala's wildest caprices made him indispensable. He also brought order to their chaotic finances. Gala was a compulsive hoarder; her purse would be bursting with cheques for several thousand dollars which she could never bring herself to deposit. Moore's formal service with the Dalís began in the early 1960s, but he had been running errands for them for many years before. It was only in the 1960s that Moore was allowed to earn commissions on Dalí's graphic work, but eventually he was to make millions from Dalí. If Dalí wanted a rhinoceros horn or a diving suit or a model willing to coat herself in chocolate, Moore would somehow provide. If Gala wanted the company of a young boy who spoke Russian, a blond or Mediterranean type who looked like Dalí in his youth, then Moore would make the necessary introductions.

Gala had another expensive vice — gambling. In the mid-1960s and early 1970s she reputedly squandered vast sums gambling on both sides of the Atlantic, and insisted on cash payments for Dalí's work to cover her losses.

Dalí's artistic reputation will be judged by his oil paintings, over which he agonized, but most of the money poured in through the sale of prints, lithographs, postcards and fairly distasteful commercial ventures. Gala swiftly realized that every scrap of paper on which Dalí signed his name was worth something.

She would demand that the printer secretly run off more than the agreed-upon number of prints. So, if collectors were assured that they were buying one of 1,250 "original" prints, they were in fact being cheated into buying one out of, say, 7,000 prints. In 1981 Gala convinced Dalí to sign 35,000 blank sheets which, the Spanish Press claimed, were sold to several editors who put whatever image they wanted on them.

Although Gala was 10 years older than Dalí, nobody — especially not Dalí — thought that she would die first. When she went in 1982, Dalí lost his will to paint or even live. He shut himself up in her room, pulled the curtains and refused to let any sustenance or friends relieve his darkness. He forbade anyone to mention Gala's name. Alone, in the tower of his surrealist museum, he raged against his decrepitude, terrified of his approaching death.

Wicked Lady by Tim McGirk is published by Hutchinson, price £12.95

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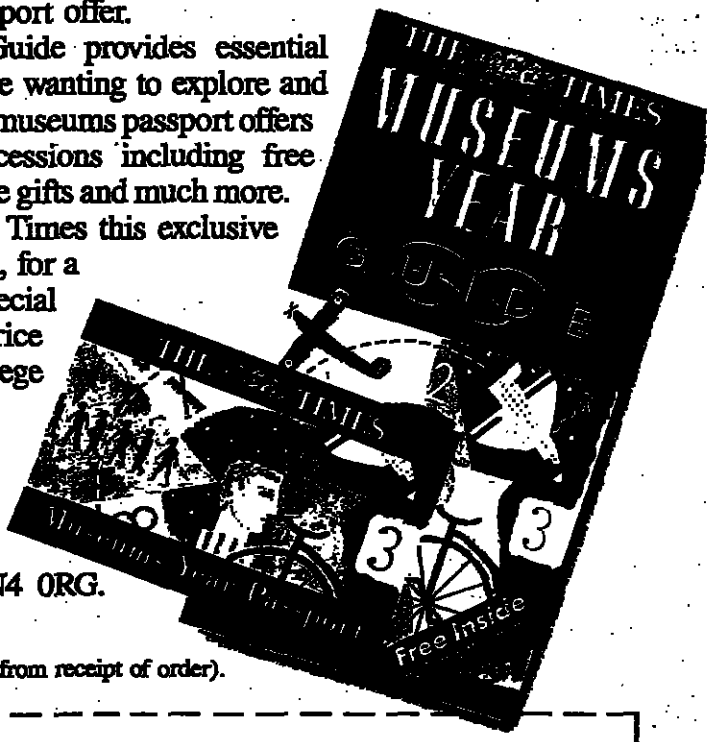
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THE TIMES



Age of ambition: although Gala was 10 years older, nobody — especially Dalí — thought she would die first

MUSEUMS

A fresh look at yesterday

Five years ago the railway warehouse in Lower Byrom Street was a filthy, lowering pile of the 1880s, a melancholy relic of Manchester's industrial past — "an unprepossessing sight", says director Dr Patrick Greene, putting it mildly, when his Manchester Museum of Science and Industry acquired it. But when they started cleaning it, something happened which turned it into a kind of emblem for industrial museums. "It was one uniform, indeterminate colour," Greene explains, "but when we removed the grime we found this beautiful patterned brickwork. We took out the iron-framed windows, ugly because they had been painted over so many times. We glibbed each one back to the original, and when we replaced them, what had been lumpish, ugly windows were delightful."

On March 10 the Duchess of York, patron of Museums Year, will formally open this latest addition to the museum complex which covers the city's old Castlefield railway estate. Looking down on the vast 12,000 square metres of the ground floor from a balcony, visitors can watch the never-ending process of restoration in the workshop below. On the second floor is "Experiment", a hands-on science area, and in the basement the library and records are available to the public, instead of being an archive for curators and scholars only. The original light well running from top to bottom of the building now contains dramatically rising ramps, and a glass lift.

The aim is to heighten awareness of the role of industry today, and the importance of science-based jobs in the kind of modern industrial society that Manchester is now. "Elsewhere on the site the same principle applies to our design studio and modelmakers' workshop," Greene says, "and later this year the curatorial centre will open on the same basis."

Last year he did something which would have been unthinkable a decade ago: he made a feature of the obsolete sewerage running beneath the main building. "Underground Manchester" examines sanitation in the city of the 1840s, the cholera it brought ("the drawback to realism is that people keep pinching the dead rats," Greene says, adding that

The heartlands of Britain's industrial past are busy scrubbing down its monuments and artefacts for a new generation, Simon Tait reports



Window on the past: both young and old enjoy the nostalgic recreation of old shops at the Black Country Museum at Dudley

the rats are fake), and the development of sanitation. "It's astonishingly popular. Hundreds of people come in asking 'where are the sewers?'"

The Manchester museum started out to record the city's place in technological history. Now it has grown beyond its municipal role, and its publicity claims that it is "Europe's fastest growing industrial museum."

Richard Ellam would like to be able to say the same in the next three years about his new charge, the "highest museum in Britain", at Wanlockhead in Lanarkshire. The Museum of Scottish Lead Mining there

is 15 years old, and has never had a curator until now, relying on volunteers to show 30,000 people a year down the mine and round the little museum building itself.

Ellam was recruited at the beginning of the year to create a realistic income. A new museum building will tell the story of lead mining from the early 18th century. Ellam also has two cottages, one restored to its 1740s appearance, the other representing the home of a miner in the 1890s.

His open-air section, containing the workshops

where the first steamboat engine was built 200 years ago, will be enhanced with a replica of the boat it drove, made for Glasgow's Garden Festival last year.

The industrial Midlands are naturally rich in industrial museums. The Black Country Museum at Dudley has been a course leader in the field of recording the industrial society, with its reconstructed buildings on a huge open-air site. But it could not tell the story of the coalfield without a mine, and you could not get 275,000 people a year down a mine, not if you wanted to get them out again. "So we're making a fake one," says

director Ian Walden. "We're making 250 metres of tunnels and caverns underground, with a coalface and rockface equally fake, and pit scenes from the 1850s, which were the heyday of the coalfield."

In May, a more modest celebration of industry opens in what was the world's leading iron town, Merthyr Tydfil. It is a beneficiary of the Welsh Office's "greening of the valleys" policy, with just over £200,000 coming in three years to turn the Ynysfach Engine House into an interpretation of the iron industry in Merthyr. Too small to have working engines — the steam engine which filled it was

stripped and sold for scrap at the turn of the century — it has models, recordings and film, talking about the technology which provided the rails that opened up the American West, along with most of the rest of the world.

As well as being instructive, industrial museums can be pure, simple fun. The largest collection of steam engines in Europe attracts up to 8,000 people a day when steam is up, just for the sheer thrill of seeing mighty machines come to furious life. The Bretingham Live Steam Museum at Diss in Norfolk has 50 engines, from the Royal Scotsman locomotive to a Victorian carousel, and has had to extend its steam-up days from a few summer Sundays to three or four days a week in the high season, to meet public demand.

It was public demand, too, which made Peter Hawkins transform the China Clay Museum at Wheal Martyn, near St Austell in Cornwall.

Set up by the industry to record past techniques at a time of transition to high technology, it grew from a few bits of machinery to become an open-air museum with its own working clay pit. Hawkins noticed how wildlife flourished among this kind of industry, so he added a nature trail. A year ago he canvassed his visitors to see how many followed the trail; 82 per cent responded positively, so new books, trails and research have gone into building up that aspect.

Last year the flagship of this sector, London's Science Museum — or the National Museum of Science and Industry, to give it its proper title — launched its own five-year, £10 million transformation plan. "We are developing the technique of talking to the non-scientific public about science and technology, which has been completely abstruse to them in some aspects," says the director, Dr Neil Cossons, speaking for an entire generation of industrial museums.

"We are trying to present industry and technology in some style that is not just intelligent, but gives some aesthetic stimulation, such as you would find in a museum of archaeology or decorative arts. We're talking not just about yesterday, but about today and tomorrow."

EXHIBITION CALENDAR



ON ACTIVE SERVICE: The postal service in wartime. Exhibition theme runs until October with changing exhibits. Currently on show is the three-year correspondence between an RAF officer serving in Egypt and his fiancée, a secret courier with an eye for the telling details of wartime life in provincial England. Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, Bath (0225 60333). Mon-Sat 11am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Free (ET entrance fee once building work completed). Until Tuesday.

THE CITY'S PICTURES: Edinburgh's art centre is invaded for two months by a selection from the 3,000 works in the city's collection. Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh (031-225 2424 ext 6650). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Free. Until March 11.

RAIDERS: The story of the Army Commandos — their foundation, development and activities in the Second World War — put together by the National Army Museum, Chelmsford & Essex Museum, Chelmsford (0245 480480). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Free. Until March 12.

PHOTOGRAPHY NOW: The best in the last 10 years of international photography. Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London (01-938 8500). Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2.30-5.50pm. Voluntary admission charge. Until April 30.

MINISTERING ANGELS: The role of Liverpool in the history of nursing, and the women beneath the talcose. Merseyside Museum of Labour History, Islington, Liverpool (051-207 0001). Weekdays 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Free. Until May 2.

BLACK ART, NEW DIRECTIONS: Wide range of work selected by other black artists. 30 new works by eight young artists. City Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent (0782 202173). Opens Mon-Sat 10.30am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Free. Until March 27.

Jenny Gilbert

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GARDENING

Flowers hold an early show

Inspired by the premature spring, Francesca Greenoak thinks of Chelsea

Impossible to hold back any longer on the subject of unseasonal garden events set off by the mild weather — gardens are in full bloom: crocuses, hellebores, primroses, *Iris Unguicularis*, species daffodils and lungworts (pulmonarias). Any advance on a half-ripe strawberry and a small tortoiseshell butterfly?

This year the Chelsea Flower Show takes place from Tuesday May 23 to Friday May 26. Whole day tickets for Members' Day (Tuesday) are already sold out. If you are an RHS member, the following are still available: May 23, 8-9pm (£6); May 24, 8am-8pm (£8), or 3-8pm (£6). Also Thursday and Friday whole day tickets, at £5 each.

Tickets available for members of the general public are: May 25, 8am-8pm (£14) or 4-8pm (£7); May 26, 8am-5pm (£10). The best buy is probably the Thursday afternoon ticket, which is not only reasonably priced, but lets you in at a time when there are usually fewer people, so exhibits are more accessible. There are special arrangements for a limited number of disabled people on Press Day (Monday) as well as the other days; write to the RHS for details.

To book tickets, send

cheques (made payable to the Royal Horticultural Society) to the RHS, PO Box 313, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE, writing name and address on the reverse, enclosing a SAE. Orders will be acknowledged and tickets will be dispatched in April. Up-to-date ticket information will be available on 01-828 1744.

For gardeners who like to know something of the history and practical growing details of some of the more unusual plants, there is a new magazine, *Plants and Gardens*, from the Practical Gardening stable. This first spring issue (price £1.95) includes authoritative articles from Christopher Lloyd on mixed borders and Brian Matthews on hellebores.

● A new self-watering pot (gold medal winner at the last Garden Leisure Exhibition) slots neatly into a saucer with a small reservoir, which is filled with porous "pebbles" and watered. The polypropylene pebble pot is well designed, attractive and functional. It comes in three sizes and costs from £4.95 to £7.95. (If you cannot find them at local garden centres, contact Metro Products, 98-102 Station Road East, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 0AY for stockists).



Out now: *Iris unguicularis*

WEEKEND TIPS

- Start to take conifer cuttings: cut through a node at the base of last year's growth, placing them in a pot of compost and sharp sand.
- Add compost and an all-round fertilizer to herbaceous beds and borders.
- Sow broad beans and carrots in situ under polypropylene floating cloches or standard cloches.
- Report fusaria and geranium cuttings which have overwintered.
- Sow hardy annuals in seed trays in a cool greenhouse or cold frame.

RESTAURANT GUIDE

Continued on next page

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مطعمنا الجديد

EATING OUT

Star-struck in Paris

Deep in the heart of Michelin country, Jonathan Meades seeks out the confident, understated cooking of a two-star establishment

Le Grand Vérolé au Grand Palais — is this season's main excuse for a trip to Paris, the second excuse is gastro-medico Schadenfreude — we went to see the tumblers full of listeria victims and to congratulate ourselves on sticking to Lymeswold. Strangely I saw no bodies anywhere; even more strangely, my attempts to distribute to the poor benighted people of that city wedges of finest Lymeswold and traditional rich 'n' heavy quots of Croydon Cheddar met with no thanks, but cries of *salut, bonjour* etc. Who was it — Mazarin? — who said "We don't tell you 'ow to do ze football 'ooliganess, you don't tell us 'ow to do ze chiz".

Right, those are the seasonal excuses. The perpetual reasons for visiting Paris as a tourist are its beauty, its urbanistic formality, its cleanliness, its gastronomy and its compactness — these last two together. Within a 20-minute walk of Le Grand Palais are to be found more Michelin-starred restaurants than there are in the whole of the United Kingdom.

What does that tell us? The first thing it tells us is that Paris is — some revelation the gastronomic capital of the world. But it also tells us that it is much more difficult for a chef working in the UK to get a rosette for two, let alone three than it is for a chef in France. Now, I'm not trying to deny that London is a gastronomic midland beside Paris; but equally, it's much better than it was.

Part of the cause of the lack of international recognition is that it is hampered by its past reputation; part is that the British inspectors for *Michelin: Great Britain and Ireland* are more French than the French, and appear to apply stiffer gauges; part is the wretched British Tourist

CARRÉ DES FEUILLANTS
★★★★★
14 Rue Castiglione, Paris 1
(42 86 82 82)
£90. NB No British credit cards. Lunch and dinner, Mon to Fri.



Authority's persistent promotion of "typically British" (that is to say, typically bad) establishments. Go into a BTA office in Paris or Rome or Madrid and you will find brochures recommending absolute dumps — mostly chain-owned — that are totally unreflexive of the culinary amelioration of the past decade or so.

Of course it's not at the level of starred restaurants that France is so vastly superior, but at that of modest everyday places. None the less, after Gauguin you might want a treat, or at least a reward for having got round the entire show.

So, leave the Grand Palais (which is a spectacular work of

engineering), head east down the Champs Elysées to Place de la Concorde, on to Rue de Rivoli, and hang a left towards the column in the centre of Place Vendôme. This is Rue Castiglione — the walk should have taken you less than 10 minutes, and if you enjoy stone in the service of pomp, it is one of the most inspiring walks in the world.

Rue Castiglione is arcaded, and the restaurant Carré des Feuillants, which is in a courtyard of that name on its east side, is not easy to find. It should, however, be sought. It is the second establishment to be opened by the young chef, Alain Dutournier, who started with Au Trou Gascon,

between the Gare de Lyon and the Bois de Vincennes.

He still owns and oversees that joint, but now cooks in this far grander, far more salubrious quarter. And in far grander surroundings, too. Au Trou Gascon is a posh belle époque bistro; Carré des Feuillants is a posh restaurant — tan panelling, eastern carpets, a foyer with a stone bath full of ice and bottles of fizz, hanging plants, excellent prints (a 19th-century hippopotamus hunt on the Congo river, dogs ripping hares to bits). There is no attempt to achieve a unity of style: the old and the new (plate glass doors, a bizarre log fire — for spit roasting? — enclosed in a

glass box in the middle of the dining room) sit unselfconsciously alongside each other. This is refreshing after the ubiquitous repeto of London.

Dutournier's confident and slightly understated cooking is pretty much faithful to his native south west, though it is even less down-home than it was at his former stove; he certainly doesn't go in for the sort of museum cooking that you might find in places with names like, say, *Comme à Dax* or *Relais du Gers* — establishments which major in unevolved "authenticity".

The preprandial snacks — fried bread with a thin coating of intense tomato sauce, and a

hot croustade of chicken which evokes non-industrial farmyards — augur well; the house cocktail doesn't. It seemed to have been dreamed up just to be different, just to ensure that it was something no one else did — they didn't do it for a very good reason. But this is where the gimmickry begins and ends.

The fairly short lunch menu is thick with foie gras dishes, and Dutournier's raviolis stuffed with them in a light consomme with a julienne of truffles is as good a way as any of using up the livers of greedy geese and ducks. His cooking is clean-tasting and healthy and never more so than in a delicate persille of rabbit — the meat bound in a ginger-flavoured jelly with pieces of carrot and cep and, alongside it, a marvelous purée of ceps.

After these came an even better dish — roast duck with roast celeriac. The duck was cooked, it wasn't like a bloody magret; the sauce was of duck blood, foie gras and, maybe, a bit of chocolate (which would be consistent with south-western practice); the skin was crisp, the meat was going on gamey; there was virtually no subcutaneous fat, and what little there was was cut by green olives. It was an unshowy dish, fairly gentle, and brilliantly accomplished.

It was followed by four kinds of free-range lysteria — two from Gascony, one from Corsica, one from Alsace, and they were followed by a crème brûlée which owed more to Catalan precedent than to the burnt-sugar item that is good for breaking wrists. With a 1985 Cahors from Domaine Eugénie, two coffees (and pretty good friandises) the damage was £90, a sum comparable to what you'll pay at a comparable restaurant in London.

The point is, which are the comparable restaurants in London? I'd suggest that Michelin hasn't a clue — it's no deprecation of Dutournier to aver that if Carré des Feuillants has two rosettes then Ladenis, White and Dettell should have three, and an entire constellation should have two. But there you are — *autre pays* and all that.

DIRECTORY

ST JOHN'S WOOD

As Bels St Jean
122 St John's Wood High Street, London NW8
(01-722 0400)

★ ★ ★
Basement bistro of the old school — cooking and decor recall the 1960s: dried flowers and heavy sauces, beans and crude mouscous. Occasional dishes, such as mushroom beaver, and fish soup, show a bit of flair. £25.

★ ★ ★
Al Saefer
3 Circus Road, London NW8
(01-588 8183)

★ ★ ★
Lebanese establishment decorated in full blown Louis Farouk style. A mecca for Lebanese eaters and fans of puréed aubergine. £25.

★ ★ ★
Minsky's
Hilton International Regents Park, 18 Lodge Road, London NW8
(01-722 7722)

★ ★ ★
Pseudo Jewish deli in an hotel just about overlooking Lord's. Useful for cheapish cricket lovers who are uneasy about the quality of their salt beef sandwiches. £25.

SPANISH

Don Pepe 98 Frampton Street, London NW8 (01-262 3834)

★ ★ ★
Animated Galician tapas bar and restaurant that is an unofficial club for local Spaniards. The Asturian bean stew called fabada, the black puddings, tortilla and skewered pork are commendable. Tapas £16, meat £25.

★ ★ ★
Bar Escoba
102 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-373 2403)

★ ★ ★
Ernst Spanish tapas served in a former pub over by the trendiest designers of 1988. The lack of accuracy in the cooking is rather astonishing. £40.

★ ★ ★
Meadon Don Felipe
53 The Cut, London SE1 (01-528 3237)

★ ★ ★
Pleasant tapas bar near Waterloo frequented by the city's hands. Most dishes are better than fish ones. Decent Rioja and Manchego cheeses. £25.

★ ★ ★
Guernica
21a Foley Street, London W1 (01-580 0623)

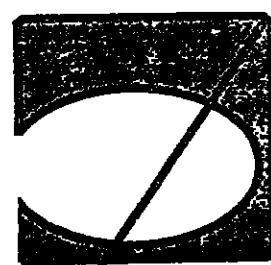
★ ★ ★
The only specifically Basque restaurant in London. A small room draped with yards of white material as though countless brides had been robes of their dresses. Fisco cooked with garnish is an outstanding dish, others are variable. £25.

★ ★ ★
Los Ramos
38a Southwick Street, London W2 (01-706 1870)

★ ★ ★
Compensate tapas served in a rather austere Paddington basement. The clientele is Spanish middle management; the atmosphere is animated. Indifferent to food, decor with elements of baroque. San Miguel beer, sherry, Rioja. £28 (full meal for two).

RESTAURANT GUIDE

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Restaurant and
Cocktail Bar



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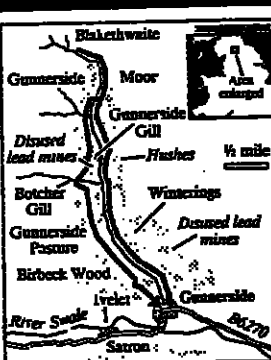
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OUTDOOR LEISURE

A hush in the Dales

WEEKEND WALK



before working long hours
wresting one from the gill.

Walk on through another
scene of industrial dereliction,
past the deep gouges known as
hushes. Miners created a hush
when they released a torrent

from an artificial dam to wash
away all in its path, revealing
the vein of lead beneath.

Today only the "peep, peep,
peep" of a ring ouzel disturbs
the quiet. The path passes
through a ravine to the main-
dammed falls at the Balkerhwaite
Dams; here dippers breed.

Return through the gill. Just
beyond a gentle fall, cross the
beck by the ancient mine
bridge, walking along a grassy
path with extensive views of
Yorkshire stretching away
into the haze. The path joins a
cart-track by the magnificent
waterfall in Balkerhwaite Gill.

Where the track swings to the
right, a mile and a half long,
continue straight ahead
following an indistinct path
downhill to Gunnerside.

Mary Welsh

OUTINGS

WINDMILL OPEN DAY:

Opportunity to visit this ancient
windmill, restored by the
Lincoln Civic Trust for the
Queen's Jubilee. Guides to
take you round.

Ellis Mill, Mill Lane, Lincoln.

Today, tomorrow 2pm-dusk.

Adults 50p, child 15p.

HOUGHTON TOWERS: Quality

antique fair set in the public
rooms of the 16th-century
fortified hilltop mansion. All
items vetted.

Houghton Towers, Preston,
Lancashire. Today 11am-6pm.

Tomorrow 11am-3pm.

Admission £2.

MID-KENT TOY

COLLECTORS' FAIR:

Opportunity to buy, sell or
exchange rare, obsolete or
unusual toys and models.

The Agricultural Hall,
Maldenstone Market, Kent.

Today, 9am-4pm. Admission
50p.

Judy Froshaug

Radar that spots
a drop of rain

WEATHER EYE

Radar images shown on the
TV weather forecast graphically
illustrate how rainfall
patterns develop and move
across the British Isles.

While, until last week, the
South-East has had little rain
in recent months, further
north and west, bane and
images have shown frequent
bands of heavy rain.

The radar measurement of
rainfall works like this: a
short intense pulse of very
high frequency radio waves is
sent out by a transmitter.

When this strikes a target,
such as a cell of rain, some of
the signal is reflected back and
can be collected by a receiver.

The time taken for the pulse
to complete the round trip to
the target and back to the
receiver indicates how far
away it is. The intensity of the
reflected signal is a function
of the amount and size of the
rain drops in the radar beam.

So a picture of rainfall
patterns can be obtained.

Theoretically, it should be
possible to measure rainfall
precisely. In practice it is not
because the ground reflects the
radar pulses, it is difficult to
make low-level measurements.

If there is low cloud, especially
over hills, which enhances the
rainfall, or, conversely, if the
rain is evaporating near the

ground, errors will creep in.

Despite the limitations, the
UK Meteorological Office has
developed radar measurement
of rainfall to a high degree.

Not only can it provide pic-
tures of current rainfall con-
ditions and estimate how much
has fallen, it can help provide
accurate forecasts of how
areas of rain will change a few
hours ahead.

These improved forecasts
use radar measurements from
both the UK and the Continent
that are recorded every 15
minutes. The half-hourly im-
ages of cloud cover obtained
from Meteosat, the geostationary
satellite stationed over
the equator, provide further
data. All the information is
combined with computer mod-
els of the atmosphere.

The more accurate tracking
of the movement and develop-
ment of severe thunder-
storms is the most immediate
example of exploiting these
techniques.

Potentially more valuable is
the ability to use rainfall
measurements to provide im-
proved warnings of flooding.

Water authorities are using
these forecasts to take action
to manage the run-off in
catchment areas, to reduce
damage and to warn emer-
gency services of possible
impending disasters.

W. J. Burroughs

For more Outdoor Leisure, see page 59

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1806

Prizes of the Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first
two correct solutions opened on Thursday, March 2. Entries should
be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition,
Pennington Street, London, E1 6XN. The winners and solution will
be announced on Saturday, March 4.

ACROSS

1 Liquid jet (6)

5 Classical oracle (5)

8 With it (3)

9 Beach stone (6)

10 Mole's presence of (6)

11 Nautical mph (4)

12 Model (8)

14 Showy dress (6)

15 Double up stake (6)

16 To mine area (3)

18 Rock bryophyte (4)

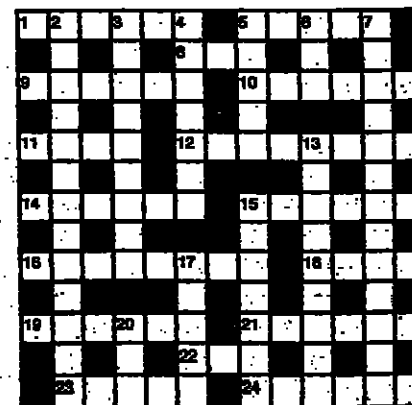
19 Quaker (6)

21 Unimpaired (5)

22 Head (3)

23 Aspic (5)

24 Sudden exclamation (6)



DOWN

2 Edward VII's
mother (5)

3 At intermediate
point (2,7)

4 By that means (7)

5 Scanty (5)

6 1939 British army
formation (1,1,1,1,1)

7 Dreamily lazy (13)

13 Land boundary (7)

15 Workable mine de-
posit (3,4)

17 S American in-
vention system (5)

20 Encourage (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1805

ACROSS: 1 Copping, 4 Arrium, 9 Pa-

ella, 10 Play, 12 Whitcomb,

14 Allure, 15 Affair, 16 Gladhand,

20 Poth, 22 Gecro, 23 Osmunda,

25 Noilly, 26 Amused

DOWN: 1 Cup, 2 Piffal, 3 Nell, 5 To-

ma, 6 Hiss, 7 Metemorph, 8 Babe,

11 Pampinea, 13 Tardigrade,

16 Amounts, 17 Woon, 19 Lick,

21 Inman, 24 Add

The winners of prize concise No 1806 are

J.G. Paterson, Northall Avenue, Bulwell, Not-

tingham, and L. Dowling, Ridgeway Crescent,

Newport, Gwent.

SOLUTION TO NO 1806 (last Saturday's prize concise)

THE TIMES COOK

Right-thinking left-overs

Frances Bissell reports on the happy results of being frugal

Have you noticed how some of your most successful dishes come about almost by accident? Mine often develop from using left-overs the day after a dinner party. One of my favourite dishes for guests is thin slices of marinated, raw, undyed smoked haddock. The last time I served this, a whole fillet yielded not only plenty of slices for marinating but a small fillet weighing about 4oz/110g. I refrigerated it and the next day cut it into eight pieces, wrapped each one in a thin slice of smoked, streaky bacon secured with a toothpick, and baked them in a hot oven for 10 minutes; very tasty they were, too.

I had the oven on because I was also making a fish and potato pie, using the remaining slices of the marinated smoked haddock, some fresh mussels and mashed potatoes. It was a marvellously old-fashioned winter dish, full of flavour and carbohydrates.

In using up some apricots, the left-overs turned out almost better than the original dish. I ate waste and could not bear to throw away the three or four fruits which I had stuffed with a sweetened ground almond mix, baked and served with whipped cream flavoured with vanilla and apricot syrup. I chopped the apricots and put them in the bottom of small tartelettes and smoothed over them a layer of vanilla cream, which was by now firm. Then I spooned on thick double cream, sprinkled them with demerara sugar and put them under a hot grill until the sugar had melted. I then chilled them until ready to serve - burnt apricot creams. I shall cook them again without making a dish of baked apricots first.

Left-overs do give plenty of scope for producing imaginative dishes. I always enjoy the chapter you find in many French cookery books on "l'art d'accommoder les restes", which deals with the subject quite frankly. Of course, you have to be careful with left-overs, as with any food preparation. Never just warm food through. Meat and fish must be thoroughly reheated to a high temperature. Not everything will be suitable for re-cooking. Shellfish spoils very quickly and should never be re-cooked. Food that you intend to serve again should be cooled quickly and refrigerated immediately. It is quite possible to follow sensible food hygiene guidelines and still enjoy being creative and thrifty at the same time.

The soup recipe came not from left-overs but from some rather small wrinkled Jerusalem artichokes in my vegetable basket. They still had a marvellous sweet flavour.

Tomato and Jerusalem artichoke soup
(Serves 4)
1 small onion
1 tbsp olive oil
10/455g ripe tomatoes or 14oz/400g tin peeled plum tomatoes
½lb/230g Jerusalem artichokes
1½pt/850ml vegetable or chicken stock
salt
pepper

Peel and slice the onion, and fry it



until soft in the olive oil. Roughly chop the tomatoes, and put these in the pan as well as the juice, seeds and skin. Scrub and trim but do not peel the artichokes. Cut them in half, or slice them if large, and cook them with the tomatoes, partly covered, until soft, moistening if necessary with stock. Rub the vegetables through a sieve or blend until smooth and sieve into a clean saucepan. Stir in the stock, bring to the boil and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes and then season and serve hot. Cream and herbs can be stirred in if liked.

Small savoury pastries can be served with the soup to turn it into a substantial lunch or supper dish. I have been experimenting with sweet and savoury mixtures, something like the traditional mince pies when meat was added to the fruit mixture. I have used cooked minced game, either raw lamb, minced and then cooked, or cooked lamb that has been finely chopped or minced.

Mince meat pastries
(Makes 12)
½lb/230g puff pastry
½lb/110g cooked minced meat
2 tbsp olive oil
2 tsp grated apple
1 tsp finely chopped onion
1 tsp dark muscovado or other unrefined sugar
¼ tsp ground cardamom
½ tsp ground cinnamon
freshly grated nutmeg
salt
pepper

Roll out the puff pastry, and line the tart tins, also cutting out 12 pastry lids. Mix the rest of the ingredients, and divide among the pastry cases. Cover with pastry and brush with milk to glaze. Bake in a pre-heated oven, 180°C/350°F, gas mark 4, for 15 to 18 minutes.

Fish and potato pie
(Serves 4)
2-2½lb/90-1.10kg potatoes

6-8 cloves garlic
salt
pepper
½pt/70ml olive oil
2lb/900g fresh mussels
½lb/340g undyed smoked haddock fillet, thinly sliced
2 fresh tomatoes
½pt/140ml whipping cream or thick plain yoghurt
fresh parsley

Peel and boil the potatoes and garlic. Drain and mash them with salt, pepper and most of the olive oil. With the shallow ovenproof dish, brush the potatoes are cooking, scrub the mussels, tug off their beards, knock off any barnacles and discard any that remain open. Rinse thoroughly and put in a lidded saucepan. Steam over a high heat for about three minutes, and strain the cooking liquor through a fine sieve. When the mussels are cool enough to handle, remove them from their shells and put to one side.

Spread half the mashed potatoes over the bottom of the dish. Arrange slices of smoked haddock down one side and the mussels down the other. Top with the rest of the mashed potatoes. Slice the tomatoes and arrange on top of the potatoes. Whisk the cream or yoghurt with about ½pt/70ml mussel liquor, and pour it over the pie. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 180°C/350°F, gas mark 4, for 25 to 30 minutes. Scatter with chopped parsley and serve.

To finish, try a cool refreshing bowl of citrus fruit in a mint syrup. You could also add a few crushed cardamom seeds or a drop of orange flower water.

Orange and grapefruit salad
(Serves 4)
3 or 4 oranges
2 pink grapefruits
½pt/70ml water
1 tsp honey or sugar
sprigs of fresh mint

Peel and slice the oranges and grapefruits, or slice and peel them. I slice them and cut the peel off with kitchen scissors. Arrange them in a shallow dish, and squeeze the juice from the rounded end-slices into a saucepan. Add the water, honey or sugar and all but the tips of the mint sprigs which can be kept back for decoration. Heat the liquid until the sugar has melted, and then simmer it for 2 or 3 minutes. Steep the mint until the syrup is cold. Strain it over the fruit, arrange the mint leaves on top and chill until required.

Finally, here is a recipe not for left-overs, but for a party pudding in response to readers' requests for something that does not require custard or folded-in egg-white, and gets away from the jelly, fruit and yoghurt variations which pall after a while. If you cannot get the small rafia biscuits, experiment with other almond biscuits.

Rafatia cream
(Serves 4 to 6)
6-8oz/170-230g rafia biscuits
½pt/70ml liquor, wine or spirits
4tsp or four leaves of gelatine
½pt/140ml milk
1tbsp sugar
½pt/280ml double cream
5oz/140g cream cheese, curd cheese or thick Greek yoghurt
1tbsp finely chopped crystallized angelica

Soak the biscuits in liquor, wine or spirits for five to 10 minutes and use them to line the base and sides of a glass or china soufflé dish. I use one about 8in/20cm in diameter and 3in/8cm deep. Soften the gelatine in the milk, set it over a pan of hot water and stir until it has dissolved. Add the sugar. Whisk the double cream with three tablespoons of the remaining milk until it forms firm peaks. Blend the warm sweet gelatine mixture with the cheese or yoghurt. Fold this and the cream together and carefully fold in the angelica. Spoon half into the biscuit-lined dish, put a layer of rafia biscuits on top of the cream and then spoon the rest of the cream on top. Smooth it and decorate it before chilling until set. A sprinkling of cocoa powder is simple and effective. Curd or chocolate look good or try piped whipped cream, crystallized fruit or more rafia.

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DRINK

On the ball, off the shelf

Safeway's new wine buyers had only one way to go when they joined the company in 1987: up. For the quality of the wine was appalling and the range was inadequate. To top it all, Safeway's wine department was impossible to get hold of. When I found a wine that I wanted to recommend, there was no way of knowing whether my bottle was a special one-off purchase, or widely distributed and therefore suitable for inclusion here. But in 18 months, Simon Mount, the wine trading controller, and Master of Wine Liz Robertson, the manager, have become a buying force of considerable strength.

Recent expansion means that by the early 1990s, Safeway should have about 400 outlets, putting it in the Sainsbury and Tesco league, which is why the goings-on of its wine department are of vital importance to Britain's wine drinkers.

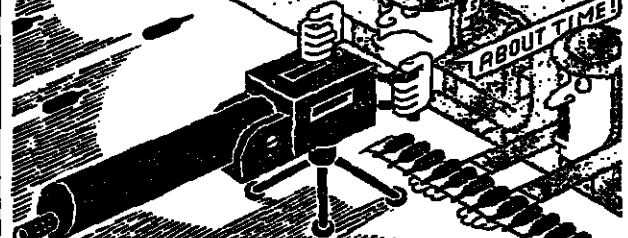
Simon Mount was amazed by the "extraordinary gaps in the range" when he arrived. The did, for instance, sell Bulgarian wine, an essential

the next tier up, a trio of German varietal wines to be drunk with food. The non-vintage Rheinpfalz Gewürztraminer from the Co-operative at Rietburg is an especially delicious example. Its stylish flowery scent and elegant, spiced palate make it one of the finest Pfalz Gewürztraminers that I have ever tasted and, at £2.99 a bottle, it is a Safeway bargain.

From the same co-operative, but not quite so impressive, is the non-vintage Spätburgunder or Pinot Noir (£2.99). Red German wines are rare, good ones rare still. This light, juicy strawberry and redcurrant example is, as Robertson put it, "a very unthreatening wine". It will make a simple, soft drink for those who normally dislike red wines.

Having successfully fulfilled Mount's brief of revitalizing the German range, Robertson's next job was to fill in some obvious gaps. Australian and Californian wines duly appeared on the shelves. The next trophies were brought in by Mount, who snapped up a

ERIC BEAUMONT



budget drink. Mount swiftly bought in a selection of Burgundies, and in the first year sold 100,000 cases. New wine trends, such as Australian and French country wines, had also been ignored. And Robertson felt strongly that in addition to a sound bread-and-butter wine range, Safeway needed several star wines to enhance its lacklustre image.

The first drinkable proof to persuade me that things were looking up was the arrival of a trio of German regional wines last spring. It was not the contents that caught my attention, for all were ordinary, easy-drinking examples of the Mosel, Rheinhessen and Rheingau style, but the packaging: pretty, abstract water-colour labels on differently coloured glass bottles: traditional green for Mosel, brown for the Rheingau (in this case the Rheinhessen bottle) and a not-so-traditional blue for the Rheingau.

More appetizing still was

dozen splendid Labour-Roi burgundies prior to Christmas.

Equally impressive is the 1987 Margaux "produced and bottled at Château Palmer", priced at just £6.50. Sainsbury must have wept with rage. With its fine, fragrant style and rich, cedary palate, this '87 is tasting even better now than it was then. Two other great Bordeaux buys here include the excellent rich, leamy white Graves Château de Roquette La Grange (£4.99), and a glorious claret from the Fronsac region, '85 Château Des Tonnelles (£4.85), with its seductive blackcurrant scent and taste.

Robertson and Mount have managed to locate several additional stars to place in the Safeway firmament. Jeroboams of Bollinger non-vintage are still available here at £7.5 a throw and, amazingly, so too are single bottles of 1983 Margaux at £65.

Jane MacQuitty

WINE BUYS

● Chardonnay Spumante, Cantale Sanit, £3.95, Safeway. Sparkling wine drinkers who dislike the blithely dry style of most French fizz will enjoy the light, musky, apple-pineapple scent and taste of this well-made Italian offering. ● 1988 Oranien-Jacobs's Creek Dry Red, £3.19, Augustus Barnett and Davisons. This South Australian red, made mostly

from Shiraz topped up with Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, improves almost with each vintage. This '86 boasts a robust, earthy-peppery fruit. ● 1985 Cape Chateau Cabernet Sauvignon, £11.95, Barnes Wine Shop, 51 Barnes High Street, London SW13. The delicious ripe, meaty, Cassis and mulberry fruit of this wine makes it a real winter treat. Pricey but worth it.

BRIDGE

Ruffled amateur feathers

The Devonshire Cup, one of the oldest events in the calendar, brings back happy memories of my bridge youth. Supposedly it is a rubber duplicate competition for non-bridge clubs. It is the definition of "non-bridge club" which has caused one or two ruffled feathers over the years.

In the early days the RAC was dominant in this particular field as the Italian Blue Team. The traditional West End clubs would serve as cannon fodder against the might of Gardener, Molloy, Tario and North. Perhaps there was the odd complaint, but for the most part the RAC represented giants to conquer.

When, after numerous failures, Hurlingham eventually defeated the old rival, questions were posed about the legitimacy of the Hurlingham team. Unfairly, let me say, because although I was an indifferent tennis player, Friday was one of the most accomplished mixed doubles poachers that you could find between Framlingham and Aldeburgh.

The matches, black tie affairs, were held at the gracious premises of the Devonshire Club. The format, with the bridge played before and after an excellent dinner, often engendered spectacular revivals and collapses in the second half.

In the early Seventies, the competition changed. The RAC, perhaps satiated by a series of bloodless victories, withdrew. Crookfords and the Hamilton Club disappeared into the maws of the property developers, and the majority of their bridge-playing members joined the Eccentric Club.

The Eccentric, technically a non-bridge club, duly entered an "amateur" team in the Devonshire Cup. After some

early successful skirmishing, this team qualified for the semi-finals, where they were drawn to meet the Law Society, a side containing a number of international players. Rightly or wrongly, the Eccentric substituted a team which could, and had, done service for Great Britain.

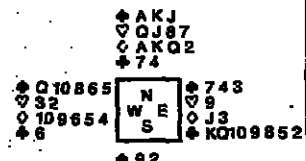
The Law Society, obviously aggrieved, played the match, if not "without prejudice", certainly without cordiality. As expected, the Eccentric hard men easily prevailed. Their duty done, the pros were benched and the amateurs restored to win the final. It took some time for the rumbles over this storm to subside.

These memories are revived by an incident in this year's competition, when Queen's Club B were due to meet Hurlingham.

"Our team," my Queen's informant assured me, "was a truly amateur one. Imagine our surprise when we saw who was representing Hurlingham. For a moment we thought of calling up Zia Mahmood."

It transpired that the Hurlingham figure of fear was Bernard Teitelcher. Now it is true that Teitelcher has enough master points to paper Waterloo station, but he is, after all, the sort of dragon who only breathes fire if seriously provoked. "What happened?" I asked.

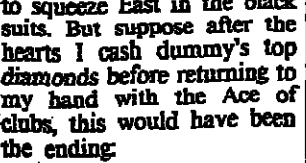
"After a level first half, everything turned on this hand."



"Our other pair bid six hearts, and with the help of the spade finesse made all 13 tricks. In our room Teitelcher bid to seven hearts. Instead of relying on the spade finesse he played on a squeeze and went down. Poetic justice, don't you think?"

The time had obviously come to speak to Teitelcher: "Bernard, may I have a few words on a matter of some delicacy?"

"Oh dear," Teitelcher said, "that hand will be perpetually engraved on my heart. On a trump lead I cashed five rounds of hearts, throwing a club from dummy. West threw a diamond, suggesting he had three or five, while East peneared heavily in clubs. To my eternal shame I tried to squeeze East in the black suits. But suppose after the hearts I cash dummy's top diamonds before returning to my hand with the Ace of clubs, this would have been the ending:



"Then the last trump runs each opponent in turn, regardless of who had the ♠Q. Just as well you didn't, I thought. It probably isn't done to make hands on a double squeeze in the Devonshire Cup."

Jeremy Flint

CHESS

World pairs

The pairings for the World Championship semi-finals are now known, since Karpov has defeated Hjartarson in Seattle. Yusupov has edged out victory in his quarter-final against Spraggett in Quebec City, and Timman has overcome stern resistance from Portisch in Antwerp. The next stage of the championship will take place in London in October, according to the Grandmasters' Association, and will pit Britain's Jon Speelman against Jan Timman (Holland), and the two Russians, Karpov and Yusupov, against each other.

White: Jan Timman; Black: Lajos Portisch. Final game, World Championship quarter-final, Antwerp, February 8. Sicilian Defence.

1 d4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 e4 e5 4 Nc3 Qc7 5 Bb5 Bc6 6 Bxc6 dxc6 7 Bg5 Be7 8 Qd2 0-0-0 9 Bf3 Bb8 10 Bb5 Bc6 11 Na4 Bb8 12 Bb5

The Dutch Grandmaster succumbs to the temptation to win a pawn, but at the cost of permitting his opponent substantial counterattacks.

If Black insists on clinging to the defence of his d6 pawn by playing 12... gxf6 then 13 f5 to be followed by Bb3 would place Black under immense pressure.

True, White has a pawn more in a relatively simplified position. As Capablanca taught, however, the profusion of separate White pawn islands proves a great handicap in converting the advantage into a win.

An inaccuracy which permits Black to hold the po-

tion. White should have played 28 Bc3 meeting 28... Rc5 with 29 Be4 Bx4 30 Rxc4 Ra5 31 Re3 Rxa2 32 Rb3 when White's advantage persists.

Portisch overestimates his chances, believing erroneously that great things will arise from his penetration of White's fortress via the open "f" file. He should, instead, have contented himself with the modest 28... Rxc4 when 29 Rd7+ Kxd7 30 Bxc4 results in a drawn outcome.

Portisch had probably been intending to re-establish material equilibrium by means of 30... Bxc2, but only now did he appreciate that 31 Bg2 Bb8 32 Kd2 or 31... b6 32 Ra3 a5 33 c5 would both leave White with the upper hand. His rejection of the pawn capture on move 28 still leaves him struggling for a draw.

21 Bc2 Bc2 22 Kc3 R5 R5 23 Kc2 R2 24 Kc1 R2 25 Bg4 Rf1+ 26 Kc2 R2 27 Kc3 R2 28 R3



In the diagram, White can win swiftly. What is White's winning move?

This manoeuvre with White's Bishop forces a serious weakening of Black's pawn constellation on the Queen's wing.

38... b6 39 Bc7 a5 40 Re2 Rf1 41 Kc2 Rf1 42 Bc3 Rf1 43 Bc2 Rf1 44 Bc1 Rf1 45 c5

An inspired sacrifice. By giving up a pawn White undermines the defence of Black's pawn on a5. Over the next few moves this factor comes to play a decisive role.

Portisch wilts under the strain of continuous defence. The best course was to try 48... h4 with the plan of advancing the pawn to h3 and following up with... Be4-g2 and... Rh1. Now Timman wraps matters up swiftly by single-mindedly besieging the vulnerable Black pawn on a5.

Absolutely the last chance here is 51... h4, a move Black is curiously reluctant to play.

52 Kc4 Kc5 53 Kc5 Kc6 54 Kb6 Bc3 55 Bc4 Kc4 56 Bc5 Kc5 57 Bc4 Kc4 58 Bc5 Kc5 59 Bc4 Kc4 60 Bc5 Kc5 61 Kc6 Kc6 62 Bc4 Kc5 63 Kc5 Kc6 64 Bc4

To enter The Times Winning Move competition, send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times Winning Move Competition, The Times, 1, Pall Mall East, London W1A 3AA. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a well-selected personal chess computer. The winners' names together with the winning move will be printed in The Times next Saturday.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Rh4+

Last Saturday's competition was analysed from the game Stein-Bryne, Soussa 1967. White wins with 1 Qc4+.

The three winners of The Times personal chess computer are Miss Helen Sutton, Winton, Cheshire; A.D. Scott, Framlingham East, Norfolk; and M.P. Jones, Sussex.

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RECORDS

Lessons in original thinking

The simplest way of explaining post-modernism is that it selects its materials exclusively from the past, while avoiding the simplicity of revivalism: it is also, therefore, by definition a medium of criticism, a *de facto* commentary on its own history. In the field of vernacular music, Wynton Marsalis and Elvis Costello are quintessential post-modernists, bringing a trenchant critical perspective to bear on an encyclopaedic knowledge of their respective idioms.

As its most barren, post-modernism seems like the fulfilment of the Marxist philosopher Gramsci's gloomy dictum: "The old is dying and the new cannot be born; in between, a variety of morbid symptoms appears." And I suppose its very existence is a criticism of our age. At its most useful and relevant, though, post-modernism can provide the opportunity to re-examine modes of thought which, in times of genuine progression, were abandoned too hastily.

Take *News for Lulu*, for example, the remarkable new CD-only release in which a trio of New York's finest young musicians, the alto saxophonist John Zorn, the trombonist George Lewis and the guitarist Bill Frisell, reinterpret the compositions of four comparatively obscure post-bop musicians of the 1950s; here is post-modernism at its most constructive, using history to make a new present.

The subjects of this study are united by a common allegiance, in their heyday, to the Blue Note label. The pianist Sonny Clark is probably the most widely recognized as a composer as well as an instrumentalist; his *Sonny's Club* and *Leapin' and Lopin'* are Blue Note classics. Freddie Redd, another pianist, is remembered, if at all, for a fine album of music for Jack Gelber's notorious jazz-and-junk drama, *The Connection*, first performed in 1959 by New York's Living Theatre. The other two composers in question, Kenny Dorham and Hank Mobley, are better known respectively as exponents of the trumpet and the tenor saxophone, their reputations established when Dorham played alongside Charlie Parker and Mobley became the second horn in the Miles Davis Quintet.

There are probably quite a few people who could conceive of such a project, but it takes someone of John Zorn's qualities — which include general enthusiasm, scholarship, technical excellence and wide-open emotional responses — to carry it through. Lewis and Frisell get equal billing on the jacket, but the whole project bears the stamp of the irrepressible imagination which most recently took Zorn to triumphs with his album of music by Ennio

JAZZ

John Zorn/George Lewis/Bill Frisell
News for Lulu (HAR Art CD 6005)
Andy Sheppard Introductions in the Dark (Artiles AN 8742)

Morricone, and the remarkable extended piece titled "Spillane".

In his sleeve note, the *New York Times* critic Peter Watrous makes an apt comparison between the formats and methods of this group and the Jimmy Guiffre Trio of the late Fifties, which also featured a saxophone-trombone-guitar lineup. The comparison is given added point by the fact that Lewis employs a range of instrumental gestures as broad as that of Guiffre's trombonist, Bob Brookmeyer, and by the knowledge that Frisell's most important studies were done with Jim Hall, Guiffre's guitarist. But there, beyond the fact that both groups were able to call upon remarkable skills of instant interplay, the similarities end: Zorn's trio certainly displays none of the nostalgic folkiness which gave the Guiffre group its signature and its not inconsiderable popularity.

Such a project would be worthless if it merely recreated the old times without telling us anything new. What Zorn, Lewis and Frisell bring out is the surprising emotional variety and melodic properties of these composers' works — qualities which often lay buried beneath the somewhat dour and astringent atmosphere of the post-bop blowing sessions for which they were devised. Pieces such as Clark's "Melody for C" and Dorham's "Ventura's Dance" stand revealed as charming and durable tunes, rather than simply vehicles for improvisation.

There are 73 minutes of music here, devoted to 17 tunes, three of which are repeated in various recorded at the Williams festival two days after the basic studio session took place in Lucerne. That makes 20 tracks altogether, at an average of about three and a half minutes per tune; these boys don't hang about, and not for a moment does the tension drop or the attention waver. Individually, the players are superlative. Zorn, whose style is based on the appealingly coarsened Parkerisms of such obscure second-division bebop altoists as Clarence "C" Sharpe and Ernie Henry, plays throughout with fire and finesse. Lewis, a virtuoso, seems constantly to be in two places at once, blowing tailgate bass figures and slippery bebop commentary. Frisell is, as usual, a wonder, producing mellow organ chords on Dorham's "Blue Minor" and a delicious backwoods-soul introduction to the studio version of Mobley's "Punk in Deep Freeze". Collectively, the ease with which they play contrapuntal games on motifs extracted from the themes is a constant delight, and their sheer zest ensures that the music never



Sounds with a fine distinction: Andy Sheppard (left) has made a nice record, John Zorn has made a great one

becomes an academic exercise.

News for Lulu will, I believe, come to be seen as one of the key jazz recordings of the Eighties, summarizing many of the virtues of a problematic age. It may not describe a possible future, but it certainly makes the present seem more tolerable.

Will we still be listening to Andy Sheppard's second album in, say, 20 years' time? Will it tell us that something special was going on in British jazz in the late Eighties? Whatever posterity's verdict may be, *Introductions in the Dark* provides further evidence that Sheppard is an improviser with the confidence to blend borrowed vocabularies into a convincing language.

John Coltrane and Wayne Shorter are his instrumental models, but the shadow which hangs most heavily over this album — and particularly "Romantic Conversations" (Between a Dancer and a Drum), the suite which occupies the whole of the first side — is that of Pharoah Sanders, Coltrane's sometime protégé, who blended the

accents of North Africa and Japan with Coltrane's devotional mode and thus can be accounted an early pioneer of what we now call world music.

"Conversations" opens with an African-style sequence for bamboo flute and percussion before diving into a variety of vamps, mostly Latin-flavoured, which provide the backdrop for the solos. Besides the impressive leader, who makes a good job of adapting Shorter's febrile obliqueness to his own, less enigmatic purposes, the vibraphonist Orphy Robinson (a certain future star) and the pianist Dave Buxton leave their marks, the latter with a punchy passage which trades usefully in the jolting rhythmic abruptness of salsa. Pete Maxfield, the band's bassist, and Simon Gore, its deft drummer, keep the impetus going, their sound perfectly captured and balanced by a fine recording.

One should probably blame the album's producer, Steve Swallow (best known as Gary Burton's long-time bassist), for the comparative disappointment of the second side. "Rebecca's Glass Slippers" is lively enough, making intelligent use of

synthesizer colourings in a format which hints at fusion music without constraining the improvisers, but thereafter the side slides downhill. Sheppard switches from tenor to soprano for the rather insipid ballad "Forbidden Fruit", and stays with the straight horn for the self-consciously perky "Optics", which aims for the hypnotic townships groove associated with Dollar Brand but — despite an interesting guitar solo by Chris Watson — doesn't really carry the necessary conviction.

In the end, one cannot avoid the harsh judgement that while a Herman Leonard cover photograph — all dramatic shadows and frozen cigarette smoke — may impress the readers of *The Face* and *The Wire*, it does not by itself turn the subject into an artist of the stature of a Hank Mobley or a Wayne Shorter. Sheppard himself surely knows that original thought is what counts, even when the subject is an inherited tradition. And that is the crucial difference between *Introductions in the Dark*, a nice record, and *News for Lulu*, a great one.

Richard Williams

Modestly magical

ROCK

XTC Oranges and Lemons
(Virgin V 2581)
Jimi Hendrix Experience
Radio One (Castle
Communications CCLSP 212)

Like a hyperactively clever but gauche adolescent, there was always something rather forced and comically awkward about XTC when they first ran their flag up the New Wave pole. For many years their music functioned like a high performance car without the synchronism. Now, however, as they enter the second decade of a moderately distinguished career on the sidelines of English rock, they have acquired one or two social graces, and with *Oranges and Lemons* seem finally to have learnt the art of putting their second imaginations to use without sounding as if they are showing off all the time.

Since the release of *Skylarking* in 1986 the group, which now comprises Andy Partridge, Colin Moulding and Dave Gregory, has spent part of its time recording a second album of eccentric, Sixties-influenced psychedelic themes under the nom de guerre of the Dukes of Stratosphear. The mood of those sessions seems to have spilled over on to *Oranges and Lemons*, which opens with a piece of unabashed post-Prince psychedelia called "Garden of Earthly Delights" and then works its way with grand, swirling intensity through a magical mystery tour of English pop in the Eighties.

"King for a Day" echoes the Tears for Fears song "Everybody Wants to Rule the World"; the failed single, "Mayor of Simpleton", is an intellectual version of Squeeze; "Across This Antheam" with its eastern inflections counterpointed by a heavy backbeat would sit comfortably on a Shriekback album. Which is not to suggest that XTC has copied any of those acts, so much as it is an indication of the common heritage from which so much of English pop now derives.

That heritage is, of course, still dominated by the Beatles, and *Oranges and Lemons*, with its literate lyrics and bouncy harmonies set against ambitious, multi-layered arrangements, toothing horn fanfares and martial drumbeats, is peculiarly reminiscent of the era of doxy love and Sergeant Pepper's *Lovely Hearts Club Band*.

At its best, as on the genuinely affecting melody and neatly accommodated cross-rhythms of "Merely a Man", it sounds like a gloriously volatile compound of intelligence and exuberance. At its worst it can seem hopelessly overwrought, as on the baroque "Cynical Days". It is certainly an intriguing album born of mature consideration, but it can occasionally appear, as in the throwaway

Wings pastiche "Poor Skeleton Steps Out", to be a lot of work for a modest result.

A new cache of Jimi Hendrix recordings has surfaced. *Radio One* is a collection of material taken from five BBC radio sessions recorded during 1967, two of which were broadcast on *Saturday Club* on the old Light Programme, before *Radio One* was even constituted. The album features the original Experience — Mitch Mitchell on drums and Noel Redding on bass — whacking energetically through various Hendrix standards ("Foxy Lady", "Hey Joe", "Stone Free", "Purple Haze", "Fire", "Burning of the Midnight Lamp) together with a raft of much more offbeat and sometimes off-colour material.

The performances are distinguished by a careless flamboyance that has all but disappeared in the hi-tech music world of today. For this was a time of extravagant improvisation, made possible, in part, by the primitive studio techniques of the period. Hendrix would have been no part of its time recording a second album of eccentric, Sixties-influenced psychedelic themes under the nom de guerre of the Dukes of Stratosphear. The mood of those sessions seems to have spilled over on to *Oranges and Lemons*, which opens with a piece of unabashed post-Prince psychedelia called "Garden of Earthly Delights" and then works its way with grand, swirling intensity through a magical mystery tour of English pop in the Eighties.

Some of the jams, too, are less than enthralling after the first hearing, for instance Muddy Waters' "Catfish Blues" (which is revealed here as an obvious inspiration for the later recording of "Voodoo Chile"), and Willie Dixon's "Hoochie Coochie Man", which boasts a wobbly slide guitar contribution from Alexis Korner. Likewise the versions of Leiber and Stoller's "Hound Dog" and "Hear My Train A-Comin'", which are interrupted by over-enthusiastic party noises.

But there are other treats, such as a rip-roaring version of the Beatles' "Day Tripper", an amphetamine whip through Howlin' Wolf's "Killing Floor", and a superlative jam on Curtis Knight's "Drivein' South", that have more staying power.

Also of more than passing interest are the versions of "Love or Confusion" (great until the instrumental section, when it is confusion which reigns) and "Wait Until Tomorrow" (seemingly done with a few embellishments), songs which Hendrix never performed live.

Patchy, irreverent, and unpredictable, *Radio One* is a notable slice of history and a testament to the free-ranging spirit of a great rock musician who never gave up thinking on his feet.

David Sinclair

Variations on a sublime theme

Three years ago, Sviatoslav Richter gave a performance in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw of Beethoven's Diabelli Variations. Such was his power to compel — through the tireless variety of his recreation of Beethoven's metamorphoses of allusion, parody and meditation — that scarcely a cough or breath was to be heard when the recital was transferred to disc.

This live performance has the consistent impetus and the sense of regeneration through second-by-second response which could never be matched in a studio recording. One can feel Richter taking the temperature through each stage of the theme's transformation. He prepares and fertilizes the ground for what is to come; he starts, confirms and draws together, from the tiny mirror images of the earliest variations to the Cathartics of the final Arietta. The theme itself is given out with mischief and a slight air of impatience — and then the magic begins. At the fifth, Richter is off at a trot, the tips of his fingers scenting out the way forward to the virtual vanishing of the theme at No 12 and the vortex of activity which forms its central pivot. As soon as the two halves are placed in opposition in the contrasting canon variation, a stillness and translucency transforms his playing. From then on, disguise takes over: an audacious Leporello variation leads to a piano exercise of manic correctness, a sublime Bachian fugue and a penultimate Fuga of harsh white light.

It is this fusion of intellectual stamina with musical imagination which characterizes Brendel's late Schubert, too. Stephen Pettit

CLASSICAL

Beethoven: Diabelli Variations
Sviatoslav Richter (Philips CD 422 416-2)
Schubert: Sonata in C Minor
D958/Moments musicaux
Alfred Brendel (Philips CD 422 078-2)
Beethoven/Liszt: Symphonies 1 & 2 Cyprien Katsaris (Teldec CD 243 661-2)
Schumann: Waldszene/Kinderzenen/Sonata No 1 Vladimir Ashkenazy (Decca CD 421 290-2)
Schumann: Kinderzenen/Arabeske/Faschingschwank Stanislaw Bunin (DG CD 427 315-2)
Debussy: Préludes, Volume 2 Michelangeli (DG CD 427 391-2)

recently welcomed Brendel's A Major Sonata: now the C Minor, D958 has appeared with a similarly robust and lucid grasp of the work's long, searching spans of writing.

Brendel's nervously-wrought dialogue between the hands, especially in the chromatic developmental passages of the first movement, sharpens the music's sense of dislocation here. Even in the Sonata's still centre, the contrapuntal toughness of its variation enables him to build up a gradual crescendo of dramatic intensity to the extraordinary coda.

Do not be deceived into regarding the *Moments musicaux* as mere fillers. I found them by far the most revealing performances of the entire disc, and shall return to them time and time again. There is a sense of waiting and listening in the A flat piece, created by the potency of Brendel's repeated note in the first minor episode, tolling away into the return of the theme and signalling the feeling of anticipation which never really leaves the work.



Stamina and imagination: Alfred Brendel plays late Schubert with a robust and lucid grasp

By contrast with this and the teeth-gritting rhythmic tautness of the fifth, the third and fourth are treated with a beguiling minimalism. The tiny F Minor, in particular, seems more tightly unified than ever before.

Expansion and contraction co-exist in the gargantuan transcriptions of Beethoven's symphonies which Liszt made while staying in a monastery on Monte Mario. He wanted to push the instrument to the limits of its expressive capabilities; and it is precisely the sense of effort, of physical traversal, which makes their performance so exciting. Cyprien Katsaris, beginning at the beginning, tackles the First head-on. A helpfully warm recording acoustic encourages him to peel out the high linking and interlacing woodwind lines, using them to

illuminate the denser passages of "scoring". He actually draws the ear back to the felicity of Beethoven's orchestration in these early symphonies: the Andante becomes a little invention of Mozartian proportions; the Finale a Haydn-esque romp of gurgling inner scales.

The slow movement of the Second Symphony, with its broad, lush phrases, can sound a little bumpy on what is essentially a percussion instrument. But if one momentarily years for the sustaining power of bow on string, Katsaris's skill in contrasting and blending different registers through its long variations compensates in full.

Nothing could be further away from the intensive study and analysis behind this highly entertaining Colossus of the piano repertoire than Schumann's little *Kinderzenen*. Their nursery titles

were not intended programmatically, but rather as guides to interpretation: Ashkenazy plays as if from first-hand experience. His "Child falling asleep" is played with the tenderness of flesh and blood — indeed, rather as if his mother had been singing the last song of *Frauenliebe und Leben* to him as a lullaby. The miniatures vacillate between the sleepy and the boisterous. The soft focus of Ashkenazy's playing is emphasized by Decca's somewhat cloying acoustics: the clangorous might of the "Important Event" and the rough ride of the "Knight of the hobby horse" are exacerbated by it.

Partly for this reason, I prefer the interpretation of the young Moscow-born pianist Stanislaw Bunin on DG. The clearer air never threatened to suffocate these miniatures, and Bunin's insights tend to

be sharper, more wonder-filled. If Ashkenazy's approach is ultimately reassuring, Bunin's is shadowed by the uncertainties of a hyper-sensitive dream-child. His opening is always drawn, his "Hasche-Mann" lively with startling shadows and half lights. It is Bunin whose rhythmic acuity captures the unnervingly wild oscillation of the hobby horse; it is he, too, whose characteristically intense quality of listening finds tones of voice and silence in the solemnity of the final "The poet speaks" which Ashkenazy never quite uncovers.

But Bunin's is not as satisfyingly balanced a recital. Twenty minutes shorter than Ashkenazy's, it is completed with a fiery *Faschingschwank* aus Wien of thrilling and properly Schumannesque extremes, and the little Op 18 Arabeske.

Almost as elusive a presence as Bunin on the London concert platform is the figure of Michelangeli; and it seems fitting that an artist who frequently shuns the stage should confide to disc the very works which Debussy wished to be performed only to the smallest of audiences.

This latest release of the second volume of *Préludes*, though, is disappointing. We are given short measure both in time and in interpretative space, with a mere 39 minutes of strangely flat, generally uninspired performances. There are rockets of virtuosity enough in his "Feux d'artifice", and a moment of rare wonder in the calm, glowing chords of "Canope". Too often, though, Michelangeli sounds reluctant, or merely perverse.

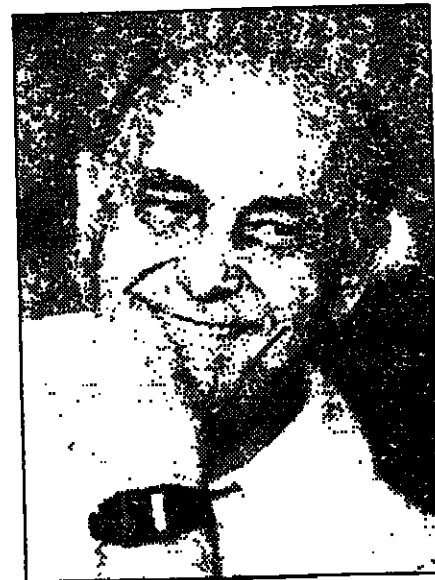
Hilary Finch

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1.00pm Film: Lured (1947), Douglas Sirk's murder mystery about seven young girls who are found dead after answering a newspaper's classified advertisement. With George Sanders, Lucille Ball and Boris Karloff

3.00 Spiderman 4.30 Neaseck UK Top 50 5.30 Small World 8.30
Emergency 6.30 That's Incredible 7.30 The Love Boat

8.30 The Foreign Correspondent (1940), Alfred Hitchcock's thriller about an American journalist who becomes involved in espionage while he is sent to Europe in 1938. With Joel McIlhenny, George Sanders, Robert Benchley and Laraine Day

10.40 Wrestlingmania IV
1.00pm Heavyweight Championship of the World live from Las Vegas: Mike Tyson versus Frank Bruno

3.30 Linda's Choice
4.00 Linda's 5th 6.00 Hour of Power

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.30am Earthfile 9.30 Beyond 2000
6.30 Earthfile 9.30 Wild West End
12.30pm Earthfile 11.30 Our World
12.30pm Beyond 2000 1.30 Mobil Motor Sports News 2.30 The Best of Wild West End 3.30 Sky News 4.30 Earthfile
6.30 The Best of Wild West End 7.30 Beyond 2000 8.30 The Best of the Frank Bough Interview 9.30 The Frank Bough Interview 10.30 The Best of Target 11.30 Mobil Motor Sports News
12.30am Wild West End 1.30 The Best of Target 2.30 The Frank Bough Interview 3.30 The Frank Bough 4.30 Mobil Motor Sports News 6.30 Canon Prime Fashion Show.

SKY MOVIES

4.00pm Africa Tanya Selye (1989), A Kenyan settler hires two cowboys to help in his scheme of wild game hunting. With Hugo O'Brien, John Mills and Tom Nardini. Directed by Andrew Morton.

6.00 Keeping Track (1985), Spy thriller starring Michael Caine and Michael Sarrazin as two witnesses to a murder on a train. Directed by Robert Swickard.

8.00 Modern Problems (1981), Chevy Chase stars in a comedy about a traffic controller who is endowed with telekinetic powers. Directed by Ken Shapiro.

EUROSPORT

10.30am Ford Ski Report
11.30 World Nordic Skiing Championships
12.30am World Handball Championships
1.30 Snooker - World Matchplay Championship
3.00 Mobil Motor Sports News
3.30 World Handball Championships
4.00pm Test Cricket - The Third Test, Australia v West Indies, from Melbourne
4.30 Preview of Eurosport Programmes
6.00 Australia's Eye On Sport
7.00 World Nordic Skiing Championships
8.00 World Handball Championships
8.30 America's Eye On Sport
10.30 Speeding World Cup - from Holland
11.30 Test Cricket - The Third Test, Australia v The West Indies
12.00 Close

MTV

6.00 MTV 10.00 MTV 1.30 Countdown
4.00 US Top 20 Countdown
6.00 Week in Review 6.30 Remote Control 7.00 MTV's Metal Hammer
8.00 Club MTV 8.30 Party Zone
12.00 Night Videos

PREMIERE

3.00pm Young Sharlock Holmes & the Pyramid of Doom 4.00 The Ratings Game 6.30 Door to Door 8.15 Sucker's Wife 10.00 Platoon 11.50 The Woman, Seven Seas

1.25am The Legend of Billie Jean
3.00am Close

EUROSPORT

● Alan Clarke's directorial signature is a fast-moving camera keeping abreast with characters walking at an aggressive clip through hostile landscapes; his style could be summarized as realism with a vengeance. It is drawn to subjects who are distinguished by relentless and tough settings: bostals, bleak estates, and the like. It is no surprise that Clarke has been drawn to the subject of Northern Ireland. He is prolific, his choice of material controversial (*Scum*, a bostal drama he directed, was banned), and the body of his work is far removed from the cosiness of most modern television drama. Twenty years ago his sort of attack and bite were quite common in the dramatization of social issues; now, thanks to a prevailing timidity, he is almost its sole representative. With *The Firm* (Tomorrow, BBC2, 10.10pm), written by Al Hunter, Clarke moves slightly in-market from his usual patch, into the world of the newly-affluent, and finds the picture even less reassuring. *Firm* (Gary Oldman) is an estate agent, a bit of a spiv and a waddy with the professional patter, who would seem to have a good ear for what his wife and kids say; that at weekends he beats up people. *The Firm* is about football hooliganism and its development away from an instantly recognizable phenomenon (skin-heads and Doc Martens) into something more anonymous, fashionable, and suburban. The hooligans on display here are mostly professional, getting on a bit, sharp dressers, polite, and quite foppish in their practice of violence. Much of their excessively ritualized behaviour is recognizably that of the playground: struggle for top place, bullying, taunting, chanting. Though a sense of arrested development hangs over much of the conversation, verbal dexterity — the ability to insult in polysyllables — is as important to the participants as the fistfuls. Interestingly, for such an assertively macho crowd, much of the banter is marked by a tone of camp joshing. Certainly, what is close to a cliché of the genre, that there is a class of hooligans (*of Minder*), *Firm*, such as it is, amounts mostly to establishing the ground rules for confrontation. The film is careful to distance itself from football as such: the hooligans themselves point out that if football ceases to be accessible, then the caravan will simply move on. Sex leads a gang calling the Inter City Crew, based on a similar outfit of West Ham supporters. For

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BOOKS

Head in search of a soul

Martin Hammond sees in John Thorn's autobiography an educational lament

John Thorn retired from the headmastership of Winchester College in 1985. Before Winchester, he had been headmaster of Repton, a master at Clifton, and a boy at St Paul's (in wartime exile). Although described as an autobiography, this book is largely about independent schools, more particularly about Winchester. The autobiographical bits — childhood, school, war service, unfinished novels, Cambridge — are lightly and pleasantly told, with an evidently genuine self-deprecation that runs throughout. (Thorn presents himself, credibly enough, as the worst gunnery control officer in the Navy.) But the real interest of the book lies in its exploration of the changing ethos in major independent schools in the last 30 years, and of the educational issues that now confront those who believe passionately in the preservation of civilized values. Here there is good, challenging stuff.

It is hard to think that the unregenerate Repton of the 1960s was the right school for Thorn. He was young, cultured (an historian with strong leanings towards English), idealistic, full of vaguely liberal reforming zeal. It was steeped in a complacent games-dominated mediocrity, isolated, provincial, brutal and dull: congenial spirits on the staff were rare, and the philistines won — there was a champagne party held by some members of the Common Room when Thorn announced that he was leaving for Winchester. Most headmasters have to suffer some crassly interfering governors, but Thorn's experience of the grotesque dominance of Lord Fisher of Lambeth as the president of the Repton governing body can still make the rest of us shudder in sympathy.

Winchester was different. In 1968 Thorn found, as most have, a school of seductive charm ("the most beautiful in the land, perhaps in the world"), with a different and probably more obstinate set of faults — higher-order faults, but obstinate because

THE ROAD TO WINCHESTER
By John Thorn
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.95

rooted in a peculiarly self-regarding conceit of Winchester's superiority in all things to all other schools. Much that was the object of earnest endeavour in other schools could be regarded, with remarkable superciliousness, as "unwieldy" — O and A levels, for example (let alone GCSE), as well as the specialist teaching of English in the sixth form or the teaching of geography at all (these were not regarded as "gritty" subjects: grittiness apparently inhered in classics and mathematics, and not much else).

Thorn's account of his seven years at Repton serves to illustrate the extent to which independent schools have changed in the last quarter-century. Repton included, of course, for the most part, the ghastly old games ethos, the lowly and dispensable position accorded to the arts, the faith-destroying regime of compulsory chapel, the lack of concern for boys as individuals with their own dignity. Gone too, for the most part, is the "scholarly but emotionally arid" approach in which Winchester took such pride.

There were many issues that vexed and sometimes divided headmasters in the Sixties and Seventies. Drugs, pop culture, political threats, curricular pressures, the exquisite dilemmas of religion in schools — to all these Thorn brings clear analysis and suave doubt. In all that matters he is on the side of the angels. He is a passionate and doubting angel. His passion has the strength of modesty, and his doubts contrast well with the brassy certainties of less reflective headmasters. Thorn's own certainty is that schools should be, above all, exciting places, in which happiness and creativity should be important values. Such liberal beliefs were not universal in the



Sixties; and now again he runs counter to comfortable orthodoxy in his lament that the brave new education of the Eighties has no unifying centre or soul.

He fought for the arts was fought over many years, against some shamefully strong opposition, and drama — those mighty subjects that allow a dangerous individuality of expression — are firmly established in the fabric of independent schools, and the quality of performance or production is inspiring, not only at Winchester. The battle for the expansion of science and technology was won in the Seventies and Eighties (Thorn wryly observes that head-

masters "made all the right noises" — they then built some of the right buildings). The philistines and the pedants are in retreat, and today's curriculum bears very little resemblance to that of the 1960s.

Is all well, then? No, it is not. In schools we were once prisoners of the past: now we are in danger of becoming prisoners of a bleakly functional concept of the future. The old "liberal education" had its faults, and has had its day: but nothing has taken its place, no system that can give intelligent pupils, especially in the sixth form, a unified and coherent understanding of European Christian civilization.

The bright new initiatives, the humming departmental A level factories, are situated in what

Thorn calls the educational suburbs. The city centre, once occupied by the classics and the King James Bible, stands empty, with the new barbarians (some operating out of Elizabeth House) massing at the gates. To repopulate the centre, Thorn argues, we need to create and implement a new philosophy of general education in the sixth form, additional to and distinct from the specialist A levels (AS levels and the like are no sort of answer, because addressing a different problem). It can be done (Thorn points an idealistic finger in the right direction), and if the educational gains of the last quarter-century are to outweigh the losses and firm part of a system of permanent value, it must be done. An empty centre cannot hold.

Knocked off a wordy perch

POETRY

Robert Nye

A friend, walking once with Dylan Thomas along the shore of the Welsh fishing village where he made his home, pointed to a cormorant drying its wings on a rock, and asked the poet why the bird was perched in such a tortuous position. "It's because everyone expects a cormorant to stand that way," said Thomas.

Now, Dylan Thomas's own poetic stance had much in common with his joking vision of the cormorant's. He came early to love the difficult for good form's sake, favouring a simulated intensity, a confusion of depth and thickness. It might be thought that there is something adolescent about this, and indeed there is, but then Thomas cannot really be blamed for the facts of his own life, which include the drawback that most of his work dates in origin from his adolescence, having been written down first in notebooks which he kept before the age of 20, and then written up later in the interests of what he called "being many sounding minded" — which is to say, cormorantly self-crippled with verbal complications.

If there is any development in Thomas it is from adolescence to childhood, as the new edition of his *Collected Poems 1934-1953*, edited by Walford Davies and Ralph Maud (Dent, £15), only too clearly shows by placing each poem in its biographical context. "Fern Hill" and "Poem in October" represent a change, it could be claimed, in that they regress with some charm from the world of *bagpipe-breasted ladies in the deadwood* and other boldly pubescent homages to the world of being young and easy under the apple boughs, and having the sun and the moon and the sea as well-brought-up Christopher-Robinson-type playfellows. Despite the glossy surface and fetching rhythms of these later anthology pieces, however, the suspicion remains that, if anything Thomas wrote is going to survive, it will be a handful of those painfully pentametered iambs which he ground out of masturbatory guilt and similar unpromising subject matter in the early days, when he had himself cast as "the Rimbaud of Cwmwdonkin Drive". Is that enough? It was not enough for him:

Were vaguenesses enough and
the sweet lies plenty,
The hollow words could bear all
And cure me of ill.

Those lines imply more self-knowledge than Thomas's admirers commonly give him credit for. This comment knew that its pose wouldn't do.

Charles Causley's revised *Collected Poems 1951-1975* (Macmillan, £7.95 paperback) and his

new volume *A Field of Vision* (Macmillan, £10.95 or £4.95 paperback) confirm that he has no living rival in his strongest suit, that of the ballad. He writes a jaunty, spry kind of verse, characterized by hyperbole and high spirits:

As I walked down by the river
Down by the frozen fen
I saw the grey cathedral
With the eyes of a child of ten.
O the railway arch is smoky
As the flying Scot goes by
And but for the Education Act
Go Jumper Cross and I.

That is from Causley's first book, and I do not think he has surpassed it. Indeed, there comes a sense from these two volumes that he has done little else but repeat, with flair, the same brassy note over and over. Compare him with a poet who is in several respects his master, Roy Campbell, and you see that what is missing in Causley is more than a few teeth and some fits of bad temper. Campbell's romanticism is informed by an awareness that it might be a bit late in the day for this sort of thing. Causley's seems bland beside it. Campbell is also at his sharpest as a translator, where Causley keeps his Muse monotonously at bay. He desires frequent references to his wartime adventures in the Navy. All the same, I have probably now said more against him than the case deserves. He is a decent maker of light verses, with few cormorant ambitions, and some of his work may survive.

I wish I liked Patricia Beer's *Collected Poems* (Corgi, £16.95) as much as I like the prickly and amusing introduction which she has written for it. Her mind, as veiled in the verse, seems uncharacteristically lacking in edges, with a result that too many of the poems are just a blur of perceptions, easy to read but even easier to forget. Her prose, by admitting more malice, has a less literary honesty ("I met Montale briefly... Dylan Thomas had just died and a greater number of women than was quite practicable were claiming past intimacy with him").

Still, "Four Spells" (based on a medieval cure for scalds) catches some of the liveliness that is undoubtedly in her:

Two angels came from the West
The one brought desire, the other
brought frost

Out pride! In lust!
In the name of the Father, Son
and Holy Ghost.

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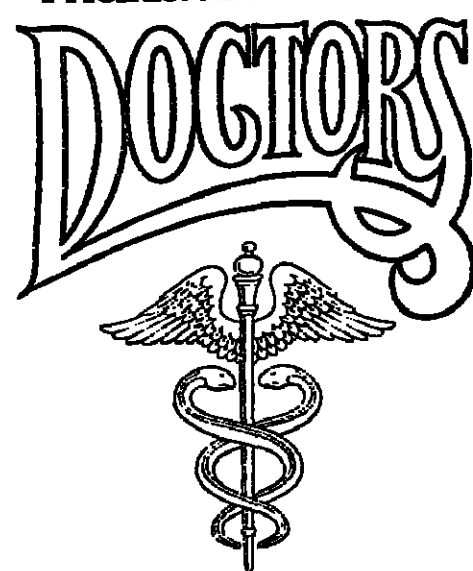
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They were students.
Friends. Rivals. Lovers.



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with

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Defender of the wrong faith

William Jackson

LIDDELL HART AND
THE WEIGHT
OF HISTORY
By John J. Mearsheimer
Brassey's Defence Publishers,
£15.95

Conventional wisdom suggests that Liddell Hart was a prophet without honour in his own country. The popular view, largely based on his own *Memoirs*, published in 1965, is that he advocated the development of armoured divisions and the tactics of the *Blitzkrieg*, but that the British and French military policy-makers refused to listen to his sage advice, whereas Hitler's generals became his ardent disciples and put his theories into practice in the decisive defeat of France in 1940. John Mearsheimer, an American, overturns this vision of Britain's self-appointed and self-applauded military guru with well-substantiated evidence in this extremely readable book.

He poses four questions: how valid were Liddell Hart's ideas? Had he really so little influence in the British establishment? Did his writings make such an impact upon the thinking of the German generals? And how did he manage to rebuild his credibility after being proved so wrong? None of Mearsheimer's answers will please Liddell Hart's admirers.

In the early 1920s Liddell Hart was certainly amongst tank enthusiasts, like Fuller and Martel, believing in the offensive use of armoured forces. By the time he had become the military correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* and then *The Times* in the 1930s, he had revised his views, concluding that tanks and mechanization of armies would make offensive operations impracticable.

This belief, and his lack of confidence in British generals, led to his theories of "the indirect approach", formulated to obviate another blood-bath on the Continent. In the run-up to the Second World War, he opposed the renewal of Britain's Continental commitment, advocating appeasement of Hitler, and leaving the French army, which he believed was far superior to the newly formed *Wehrmacht*, to deter German aggression on land. Britain would threaten to cripple the Third Reich with naval blockade and air bombardment. As late as May 1940, after the German *Panzer* divisions had broken through the Ardennes, his articles in *The Times* still showed an unshaken confidence in the superiority of defence, but the

outcome on the battlefield left his reputation in tatters. Liddell Hart's claim that he was an outsider, and that his advice was ignored by Whitehall, was simply not true. As a respected Fleet Street journalist, he had access to the most important policy-makers: military and civilian — and he was the confidant of Chamberlain and Hore-Belisha.

His belief that leading German exponents of the *Blitzkrieg* were his disciples was equally fallacious. Generals, who were creating the *Wehrmacht* for aggressive purposes, were hardly likely to pay much attention to a denigrator of offensive action.

The most damning part of Mearsheimer's study is his analysis of how Liddell Hart resurrected his lost reputation as a prescient military thinker. He was allowed to interview the defeated German generals, and to produce his best-seller, *The Other Side of the Hill*. This was a "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" type of exercise. It was not difficult for him to put words into the Germans' mouths, suggesting that the origins of the *Blitzkrieg* could be traced back to himself, in return for favourable accounts of their own actions for posterity.

Mearsheimer provides hard evidence of Liddell Hart's implantation of laudatory references to his own works in the English editions of Guderian's *Panzer Leader* and *The Rommel Papers*, both of which he edited. In Mearsheimer's view, Liddell Hart's own *Memoirs* are "a blatant distortion of the historical record".

The moral of this story is perhaps that if you want to read history in your own favour, do not leave a library full of your life's literary work and correspondence for future historians to sift and analyse. It is now up to the Liddell Hart supporters' club to rebut Mearsheimer's findings.

Parisian transsexuals, Alain Robbe-Grillet, taserism, Borges, *Blade Runner*, Colchester oysters, Edwin Lutyns, Jeffrey Bernard, copulation among rabbits, rude French slang: these are just a few of the subjects to attract this instantly recognizable freelance pen. Here is the idiosyncratic, fastidious, full-flowing "In English, 'clever' carries somewhat pejorative connotations: one is led to recall clever Dicks, smart-alecks (alikes? It's grimmer, closer to the snout and Tru-Gel tenor of the truly wide boy), or if you're of an arty bent to think of the flashy glibness of punsters and wits, or glossily superficial, minutely representational illustrators (those who lack 'depth' and 'feeling', who don't get to the 'heart' of, right inside their subjects)."

Jonathan Meades is unique: a younger English writer who does not object to being considered an intellectual, and flaunts his cleverness. Hipster and highbrow, elitist intellectual, he has pretty well invented his own universe, with its mind-revolving combinations of offal and football, architecture and howls against cultural yobbishness, and other ingredients to make the nervous shudder. He is a

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION
The Book of Sal, by David Brooks (Faber, £3.99) Eclectic collection of short stories by emerging Australian writers delves into the realms of the inchoate and erotic to produce an eerie blend of fantasy and reality.
Brother Jacob, by George Eliot (Virago, £3.50) An unprepossessing young man becomes the unsuspecting target of nemesis in this long-neglected novel. A very pendant to the author's works.

Eight Months on Ghazal Street, by Hilary Mantel (Penguin, £3.99) Bored ex-pat wife finds herself embroiled in middle-eastern intrigue. Vivacious prose and a gripping story line make this a tingling murder mystery.

Fairy and Folk Tales of Ireland, edited by W.B. Yeats (Collins Smythe, £4.95) Menstrual leprochauns, distraught banshees, and socially disadvantaged changelings leap and bound through Yeats's cheerful and exhaustive folklore compendium.
Palomino, by Elizabeth Jolley (Penguin, £4.99) Stylish foray into the dark thrill of memory that dominates the relationship between two Australian women. Stark prose and bleak humour make for a novel that is kind but never comfortable.

The Scouring of the White Horse, by Thomas Hughes (Alan Sutton, £5.95) The author of *Tom Brown's School Days* in more

Clever Dick's universe

PAPERBACKS

Philip Howard

PETER KNOWS WHAT
DICK LIKES
By Jonathan Meades
Paladin, £6.99

Sixties Juvenal with jokes in bad taste and foul language about the modern world. He can be very funny. He reaches into past of society that might make black comedians with thinner skins puke. Like all ambitious and clever writers, he can fall over the top in pseudery.

This is the first publication of collected pieces that he has written

for newspapers and magazines, largely in the Eighties. It includes a number of short stories, and the screenplay for the film *Millie's Problem*, which was commissioned for Channel 4, and then rejected by them for being too harrowing. In his writing he tries to avoid the drear consensus of news values, the primacy of politics and public life, the formulaic division of hard and soft topics — these are the inventions of commonplace creatives, and are to be resisted with resourceful bloody-mindedness.

So too are functional prose (which of course serves but the basest of functions), the confusion of fact with truth (which is fluid, infinite, and on no account to be prefixed by the definite article), the wretched conviction that exoticism starts a thousand miles away. "Nothing could be wider of the mark: exoticism begins at home. It lurks all about us. You need only cock your head one degree from its norm to sniff the staid richness and grimace the hair beneath the clothes. Cocking my head, that's what I've been up to, mostly." A head-cocker, original; and clever — that's our restaurant critic.

and stirring odyssey.
Yawer Fleets, by José María Arguedas (Quartet, £5.95) Intriguing account of clashing cultures and values in the Peru of the 1930s combines masterful description with painstaking research.

NON-FICTION
Battles in Britain, 1066-1746, by William Seymour (Sidgwick & Jackson, £9.95) Compilation of two hardback volumes; an informative handbook, including narrative accounts and analyses of battles, guides, photographs, and plans.

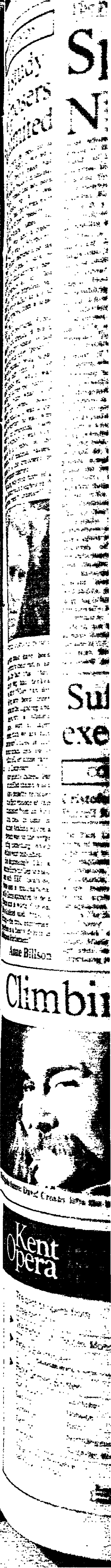
Concertos and Choral Works, by Donald Francis Tovey (Oxford, £3.95) Composers' and conductors' recipe book for music-lovers on 50 well-known concertos. Based upon programme notes made by this first-class pianist, composer, conductor, and writer.

Leonardo On Painting, edited by Martin Kemp, selected and translated by Martin Kemp and Margaret Walker (Yale, £5.95) An anthology of writings by Leonardo da Vinci, including some of his personal documents. Together with illustrations from Leonardo's paintings these provide an insight into the mind and methods of the Old Master.
Oradour, Massacre and Aftermath, by Robin Mackness (Corb, £3.50) Mackness no doubt intends to re-make his fortune with this dramatic title. In fact, what lies behind it is an attempt to explain a horrifying event in wartime France.

QUICK GUIDE



sanguine mood for this spirited account of Berkshire's 19th-century folk revelry under the shadow of the White Horse.
The Spenser, by Jules Renard (Robin Clark, £5.95) An indifferent, parasitic poet convinces bourgeois Paris that he is a genius, only to be tumbled by ambition. This perverse 19th-century confession has lost none of its melancholy appeal.
Winter in Jerusalem, by Blanche d'Alpuget (Black Swan, £3.99) The polyglot confusion and insecurity of modern Israel deftly captured in an unusual

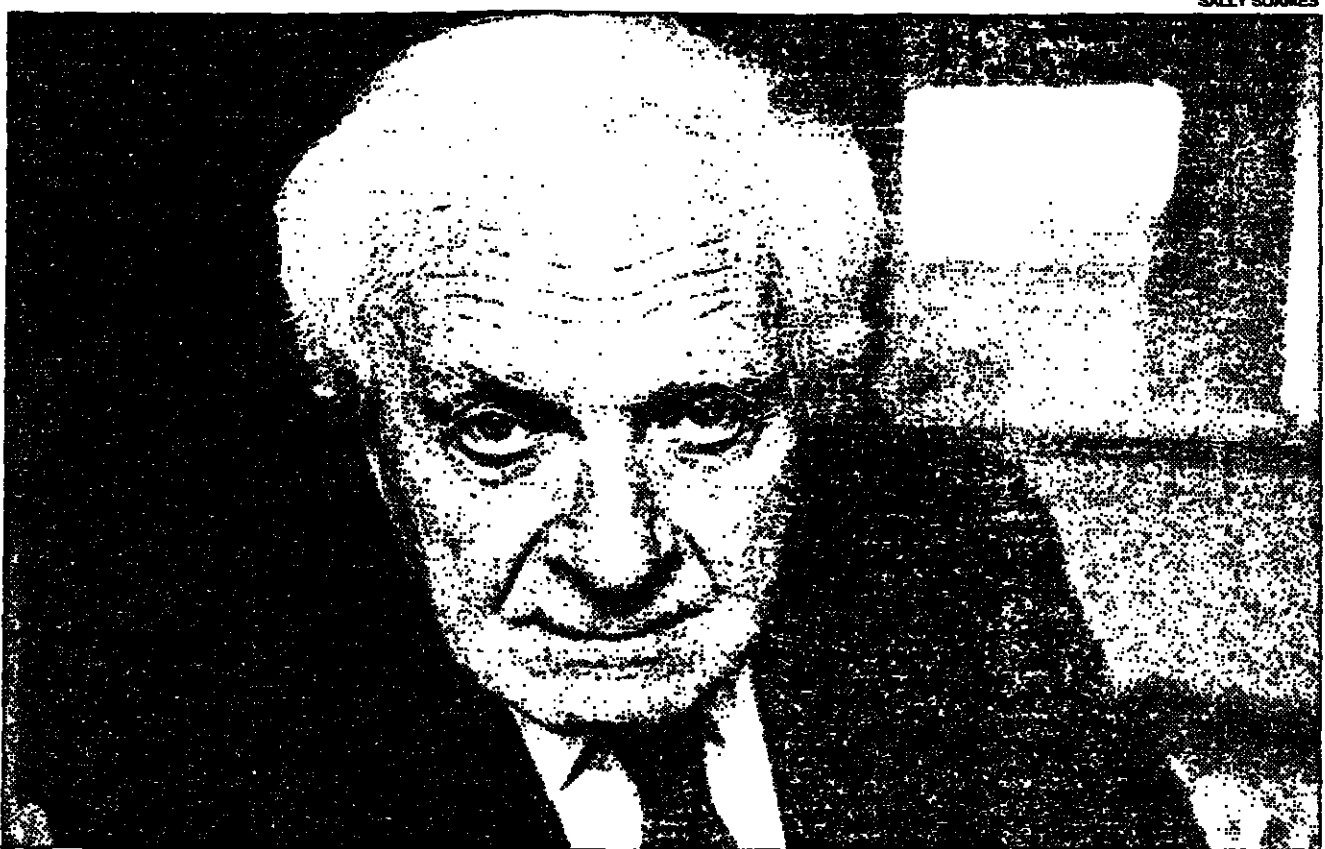


THE ARTS

The poet of many talents is 80 on February 28. James Wood traces the career of Sir Stephen Spender

Spender, the great survivor

SALLY SOAMES



The Truly Great: Sir Stephen Spender has come to seem the last representative of a lost world where literature matters

Nowadays, in our new age of anxiety, the glory of culture is not that it survives but that it survives at all. As a result, we have a frenzied reverence for those whose longevity comes to seem a replica of that survival; those who seem a chunk of the very culture they have absorbed and enriched. The marvels and miseries they have witnessed, we experience vicariously through them. Sir Stephen Spender, 80 this month, is such a figure — but with a difference. He has not only survived; he has succeeded too. A poet of distinction and a critic of discrimination, a novelist, a full-time autobiographer and part-time dramatist, co-founder of the magazines *Horizon*, *Encounter* and *Index on Censorship* — it is hard to imagine any other literary activity in which Sir Stephen might have busied himself, short of bookbinding and calligraphy. While those he has known and loved — such as Auden and Isherwood — have died, he has lived on to be known and loved by a public to whom the 1930s is little more than a forgotten romance. To this public he has become one of the friends he describes in his *Journals* as a member of "the special band, the crew of voyagers, who have lived through so much".

Stephen Spender was born in 1909, the son of a well-known liberal journalist. In his autobiography, he describes the atmosphere in which he grew up as one of "belief in progress curiously mingled with apprehension". There was a sense that history's triumphant advances made anything possible; but there was also a feeling that the best times were over — his parents recalled an age before the Great War of golden simplicities. Though he does not make the connection, it seems likely that this early encounter with melancholy paradox helped to qualify Spender for life in the 1930s as an analyst of that thrilling and threatening decade. For it was in the Thirties that history hoisted its flag of hope — usually red in colour, and flying somewhere over Moscow — only to pull it down again with the rise of Fascism and the outbreak of war. Spender, who had revolutionary sympathies for much of that time, caught this teasing sense of hope and anticipatory sadness in his most famous poem, "The Truly Great", a meditation on those few who have made large significances out of history. "I think continually of those who were truly great."

Certainly, by the time Spender reached Oxford, his belief in necessary change was already forming. On a channel crossing, at the age of 17, he had happened to sit next to the poet Sir Henry Newbolt. They had discussed poets they admired and had

mentioned one name in particular. Spender opined, "Well, I can't like the work of a poet who has a title." (It says much for his quizzical humility that he recalled this "gaffe with the power to raise a ghost" in 1983, when he heard of his knighthood.) It was at Oxford, of course, that he met Auden. His description of his brutal introduction to poetry at the hands of this gawky genius has become a classic. Summoned to Auden's darkened Christchurch rooms and subjected to random interrogation: "What poets do you like? ... Him! ... He's the wrong pole!" — Spender was nevertheless accepted as one of "the Group", Auden's magic circle of those who would go on to people the world of literature. All his life, Spender has bounced himself off Auden, using Auden to define what he sees — perhaps unfairly — as his own literary limitations.

With Auden's fierce example of how to storm Parnassus always strong in his mind, he has tended to be too hard on his smaller, more delicate climb upwards. His *Journals*

are laced with self-reproach: "Being a minor poet is like being minor royalty, and no one, as a former lady-in-waiting to Princess Margaret once explained to me, is happy as that." His *Collected Poems*, reissued this month by Faber, reveal an English melancholic, as a lyrical net with which to catch the living and dying moment.

He blames other work, like journalism and criticism, for "elbowing its way in and pushing poetry aside". But the point, of course, is that even as Spender reproaches himself for "failing" as a poet, he is invoking standards which his efforts in other areas of literary life have helped to maintain, perhaps even create. His work on the magazine *Horizon* (1939-1950) made it probably the finest English literary journal of this century; *Encounter*, which he co-founded in 1953, and co-edited until 1967, is still with us, as is the important *Index on Censorship*, which came out of his response, in 1967, to the plight of the Russian dissident Pavel Litvinov. He has worked, in the area of literature, for Unesco, the

European Cultural Association and the Library of Congress in Washington.

Seen over 80 years — though we are not suited to these long perspectives, as he would quickly remind us — his life resembles, one feels, one of those remarkable water-structures which, when you depress one part, swiftly expands in another area. If his poetry is not prospering, he goes off to found a magazine; if his journalism languishes, a book of criticism appears. While men like Auden and Eliot made a religion out of literature, Spender made something softer and wider in scope — perhaps "devotion" is the right word, with all that implies of loyalty and love. As a result, he has come to seem almost the last representative of a lost world where literature — and especially poetry which nowadays no one reads — truly matters. Eighty years on, he is that most unfashionable of things, a humanist who believes in the power of culture to survive, succeed and civilize. If this be the record of "minor royalty", reign on ...

TELEVISION

A study of posers unlimited

The credits were the best bit of *Style Monsters* (BBC2). We were informed that Brit's nails had been the work of Nails Unlimited, that Richard Johnson had not been playing himself but a "Food Trendie", and that the extras were supposed to have been "posers".

This "anti-black comedy" for the Nineties was also a poser. Was it real or was it *It's a Wonderful Life*? Probably neither, because it seems to reflect an old man's idea of lifestyle rather than anyone's personal observations on life. This might have been the intention, but it gave the whole affair an air of being twice removed from a semblance of reality.

Ulla and her boyfriend, Felix, dabbled in art, dressed in black and lived in a grey studio. While not mingling with other "posers", they were gradually being separated from each other by the spiky, punkish wall which was erecting itself across the centre of their studio. Since what little furniture they owned looked spiky and punkish, it was arguable as to whether the wall was simply a self-generating room divider, or whether it was supposed to be a symbol of the intractability of material values, perhaps, or of the crassness of metaphors made concrete.

The ending was even more of a poser. Ulla and Felix touched each other up and cried "Corbushier!" in



Food Trendie? Johnson poses

unions, which could have been either a reference to their cat, or an allusion to the fact that their machine for living had broken down. A shout of "Mies van der Rohe!" might have been more appropriate, since the lighting and camera work were a studied pastiche of the sort of lager commercial in which we are told that "less is more". Less, in this case, probably meant less, but it was difficult to tell, let alone care.

A *Quiet Conspiracy* (ITV) started off very quietly indeed, but ended with a muted thump when Joss Ackland's cassette recorder exploded. The first episode of this four-part, adapted from an Eric Ambler novel, took its time in establishing that Ackland edited a newsletter which was on the verge of publishing something which someone didn't want published. It looked deceptively like a product of the Euro-thriller school, complete with EEC locations, Nats here and a multinational cast. The villains appeared to be a Norwegian and a white Ciroka. But, as Ackland said, "this is Strasbourg — the most exciting you get here is a heavy debate in the European Parliament".

Anne Billson

Suffering of the aristocracy executed in gruesome detail

CONCERT

Cristofori Purcell Room

The Park Lane Group's current series of music, from around 1789, is proving to be a mine of trivial, but exquisitely droll nuggets of information. Thursday's concert, for instance, answered a question which many must have asked: which keyboard piece depicts decapitation by guillotine?

It is *The Sufferings of the Queen of France* by Dusek — the Bohemian composer who was under Marie Antoinette's patronage until, in 1788, he sensed an impending problem and moved to

London. He wrote this gruesome little souvenir the year after her execution, taking care to depict every gory detail for the vicarious titillation of his new English aristocratic audiences: the Queen's imprisonment (pathos-laden tune in left hand), the separation from her children (agitated counterpoint), her resignation to her fate (a stiff-upper-lip minuet), the baying rabble (frenetic passagework), the big blade falling (downward glissando), and finally a surprisingly blithe "apoteosis".

Profound historical events often inspire terrible music (consider 1812); this was not bad, and it was delivered with great panache by Christopher Kite on the fortepiano, with David Owen Norris doing a kind of blow-by-

blow commentary. Later, the pair collaborated (Owen Norris rapping a side-drum) on a more bloated piece of pictorial keyboard writing: Frantisek Koczwara's *The Battle of Prague*.

Some real music separated these salon melodramas. Three Haydn trios, given able performances by Cristofori (Kite again, with the violinist Catherine Mackintosh and cellist Sebastian Combert). Miss Mackintosh had some uncomfortable moments high up in the quick movements, and the interpretations sometimes lacked vivacity, but Haydn's unexpected modulations and ingenious counterpoints always intrigued the ear.

Richard Morrison

Beauty and spirit

DANCE

The Sleeping Beauty Covent Garden

lively acting. But George Hurrell looked less at home in this context. His partnering and his solo dancing are both impressive, but his flamboyant presentation clashes with the home style.

The production, although staged by Peter Wright and designed by Philip Prowse with touring in mind, looks good on the Covent Garden stage: more opulent than

the other Royal Ballet's present version, and in many respects better danced too at the moment. Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet puts out more consistently pleasing tasks, for instance in the six solos for the fairy godmothers, and its supporting dancers generally are full of spirit.

As the bluebird, Kevin O'Hare made a buoyant first entry, but did not sustain that quality in his solo. The American soloist, Bonnie Moore, as his enchanted princess proved disappointingly brittle and vacuous.

But there is much promising young talent coming up in the lower ranks, and some relaxed, authoritative acting from the company's veterans, among whom Anita Landa makes the wicked fairy an interesting, probably gin-soaked old biddy, and there are two contrasted interpretations of the king, Desmond Kelly's proud dignity one night, or Alain Dubrenil's comfortably relaxed informality at another performance.

John Percival

Climbing out of the pit



Facing the future: David Crosby lifts the lid on his past life

Superstar, drug addict, jailbird: now David Crosby is coming clean, Johnny Black writes

Most Britons with any awareness of David Crosby remember him as the plump, balding, Woodstock hippy, complete with drooping moustache, in the Seventies supergroup Crosby, Stills and Nash. In the mid-Seventies, when punk briefly interrupted the dinosaur era of rock'n'roll, Crosby faded away in a drizzle of news snippets about his drug arrests.

Now, coming up fast behind Paul Simon and Brian Wilson, Crosby has released a new solo album, *Oh Yes I Can* (A&M), plus a Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young album. There's also an autobiography, *Long Time Gone*, to be published by Heinemann on May 15, lifting the lid on his life as pop superstar, drug abuser and jailbird.

In America, Crosby never stopped being news, most of it about his escalating drug addiction, from marijuana and LSD in the Sixties to heroin and freebase cocaine by the late Seventies. (Freebase refines cocaine so that its effects are more powerful and more dangerous.)

"Freebase is the slipperiest, grasiest slope straight to hell," Crosby says. "Emotionally, you're a zombie. Friends died from drug abuse and it meant nothing. When my parents died, from old age, even that meant nothing. That's what I regret most, that they never saw me clean up."

Crosby first found success in the folk-rock group the Byrds. Despite earning millions through his subsequent years with Stephen Stills, Graham Nash and Neil Young, by the Seventies he was reportedly broke, having "smoked and snorted everything I earned". By the middle of the present decade he had reached what he now describes as "the bottom of the pit" and, after several brushes with the law, Crosby gave himself up in 1985 and spent a year in jail.

While there, his fortunes sank so low that the education of his daughter, Donovan, was paid for by Nash. "In school, kids were showing her newspaper stories about me and saying, 'That's your dad. He's a junkie.'"

How could it have happened? Crosby lounges back on the cushions, pushes his fingertips together, making a small cathedral out of his hands. "You don't even know. It creeps up on you. Once, 25 of my dearest friends, including Jackson Browne and Graham Nash, came to my home to beg me to give up. I didn't."

Even now a surprising number of British journalists still think he is the son of Bing. "Worse than that, man, on breakfast television they cut my song in half to go to the weather! How unprofessional, how impolite!"

© Mrs Philippa Kirk, from High Wycombe, is the winner of *The Times*/London Symphony Orchestra competition. She wins a trip to New York for herself and her husband Desmond, and will also meet Michael Tilson Thomas, principal conductor of the LSO at the Orchestra's farewell concert at the Barbican tomorrow.

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TRAVEL

If Europe's ski resorts want to keep their customers' loyalty, Brian James writes, they should start being more honest about conditions

Where truth hit the rocks

There are lies, damned lies and snow-depth measurements. The revelation that there now exists a new way of calibrating untruth occurred while looking down the valley at Villars, part of Switzerland's green and pleasant land. Only it was supposed to have been all white.

All around, breath steamed in the mountain air. Not from cold, from fury. According to the snow reports carried in the *Observer* and *The Sunday Times* 24 hours before, there was a tolerable 16in of snow on Villars's lower slopes, and a frolicsome 24in on the upper slopes, and the runs to the resort were "fair".

No reason, then, to hesitate. Villars, after all, is a resort much favoured by the Swiss and long since colonized by British media personalities because of its easy access to Geneva (1 hour 15 minutes) and because its skiing is superb. I dare say.

For what lay before us on this first impression was Villars's vast main ski area below Bretaye, now looking like a giant's beige breakfast bowl from which he had not yet got around to scraping the last of the porridge.

No lifts worked, no live thing moved save two hikers kicking mud off their boots as they waited for the mountain train. What snow existed lay in strips in the shade, crisp, even, but barely 3in deep.

It was better above Bretaye. Two chairs and four T-bars carried crowds to the top stations, where they could choose between two half-mile pistes. It was skiable, slushy and from 8in to a foot thick. But where pistes met they had become footpaths, and there was little fun in the crush to take turns at the fields of moguls, the colour and consistency of wet demerara sugar.

Some of the T-bars took you off along what appeared to be cyclo-cross tracks, chilled mud and nothing more. And some of the routes back made you grateful that these were hired skis kissing the rocks.

Still people skied, hundreds of them picking their way down with the relentless cheerfulness of sea-siding Britons peering out from bus shelters and telling each other they were sure it was letting up. But even the most optimistic did not attempt to ski back to the village.

"We had very good snow at Christmas and great skiing at the New Year. But no signifi-

cant fall since," said Robert Michel, Villars's tourist director. "It was not really been possible to ski back to the village since January 2."

Then why on earth...? "Look, we do not cheat. I will show you the press release. Very detailed... see, it shows zero snow in Villars itself and 30cm on the top slopes. We must not be blamed if all this detail does not get into the newspapers. We cannot say there is no skiing because it would not be true, and it would be very serious."

"In January I had three Englishmen in my office asking me to stop the lifts, close the resort. They said it was dangerous. I think they were trying to get their tour company to pay them back money on the no-snow guarantee. So you see, it is not easy."

"But we try to be honest. And remember that not all reports are provided by us."

Indeed, most of the reports we read are compiled by the Ski Club of Great Britain. The club's Villars representative, Olivia Gordon, explained how they are all volunteers, quite independent, and how they have been helping British skiers in the mountains for absolutely yonks.

Yet how independent is it possible to be when, as she explained, reps are provided with half-board accommodation at one of the better hotels, and given the lift passes by the commune? "We are not biased, and give the skiing situation to the best of our ability. But we don't do our own measuring, we use the tourist office figures. And you can see that no matter how



Too green and pleasant: the ski runs (alt 1500m) between Villars and Bretaye on Thursday

representatives, had been turning handstands trying to compensate, with free tickets to the ice rink, the swimming pool, the fitness centre, the tennis courts, and hastily arranged excursions to cities. But I doubt if that much comforted one family we met, alternating long walks in warm drizzle with games of Scrabble with two bored children, while they contemplated the £2,500 they would already have spent.

An accurate picture of snow conditions may have come too late for them to have cancelled without penalty. But they might have chosen to have saved precious holiday time, plus the considerable extra spending money. They should

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IS IT WORTH SKIING IN EUROPE?

"The worst Alpine winter season since 1964, when it didn't snow at all," is how one Swiss newspaper put it. With lesser resorts closed to all comers, and lift companies across the Alps staring bankruptcy in the face, a network of ski bums, mountain guides and local residents reported yesterday for *The Times* on conditions at eight major European resorts. The hard question put to our informants was simply: "Is it worth skiing here next week?" Their answers were as follows:

TROIS VALLEES (Courchevel, Méribel, Val Thorens, Les Menueires) "Only if you've already paid in advance." Good news: maximum queuing 15 minutes, and the summer skiing slopes on the glacier have been opened at Val Thorens. Intermediates ski slushy pistes. Experts and beginners stay home.

VAL D'ISÈRE (Tignes) "Never seen it this bad." Snow OK on Tignes glacier, but bad queues. Val humming with nightlife. Plenty of unused energy. Ski bum claims he skis every day, but not on own skis - skid only on rentals.

CHAMONIX (Courmayeur) Empty beds, no skiing from midway down to town. "Experts only." Good snow if climbing with guide above 2500m, crevasses open. Rocks.

VERBIER (Quatre Vallées) All best slopes closed. Good snow on glacier. Seller's market for rock skis. Hiding, mountain biking, paragliding, barbecues on the terrace, lunch at the Offshore restaurant.

ZERMATT Snow-making machines paying off. Good powder and spring snow above 2500m. Many runs closed. Hiding to mountain restaurants on gritted trails. Resort half full.

KLOSTER (Davos) Resort packed. Exuberant nightlife. "Probably best conditions in Switzerland." Official avalanche warnings issued. Royals due.

ARLBERG (St Anton, Lech) Best snow in Europe. "Not nice" off piste. White flag in good nick. Excellent grooming. One room left in town.

CORTINA (Dolomites) "Mama mia!" Thin layer of artificial snow on four short slopes. Cheerful atmosphere. Passagata in the rain.

Doug Sager

● The *Times* snow reports, compiled from information supplied by the Ski Club of Great Britain and the national tourist offices of countries with major skiing tourism, appear on the sports pages each day. Today's reports, page 48.

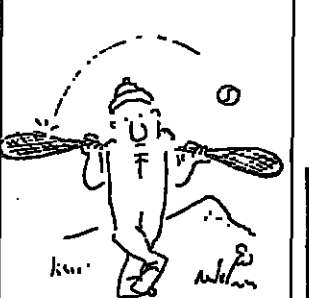
It's still a gamble

It has been a switchback of a week, which is now ending up on a high note. A low-moving front from Spain on Monday caused havoc by drawing southerly winds up across the Alps.

This brought heavy rain to many areas, where the warm descending air caused the temperature to rise well above freezing and led to a rapid thaw.

In Austria low-lying resorts such as Kitzbühel, which thus far had done so well, took a beating. The resorts that survived best were the highest French resorts which were not affected by the thaw and got some much-needed new snow, and yet again the Airlberg, which is leading a charmed life this winter.

Fortunately cooler air and belts of snow followed quickly on the heels of the thaw, so



some of the damage has since been repaired.

This capricious set of events shows how in a bad season, sudden changes in the weather can lead to markedly different

conditions in neighbouring areas, and changes from day to day, which makes the timing of a holiday and the choice of resort such a gamble.

Now the weather has undergone a change, and the forecast is for colder weather to prevail over the Alps for at least the next few days. This means that in the high resorts where there is a decent covering we can look forward to some of the best skiing of the season.

W.J. Burroughs

SKIING DIARY

FRANCE Avoriaz Feb 27-Mar 4: Snow Surf world cup finals. Les Arcs Mar 1-4: Speed skiing open competition. Chamrousse Feb 28-Mar 5: Le Grand Défi - a rally on skis. Flaine Feb 25-28: Snow Surf - French cup, moguls and super G.

GERMANY Mar 2: Ballantines Ski Challenge Races.

ITALY Cortina Mar 2: Children's torchlight descent.

AUSTRIA Zell Am See Mar 2: The Zeller Fish guests' race, a giant slalom open to all.

Peter Hankey

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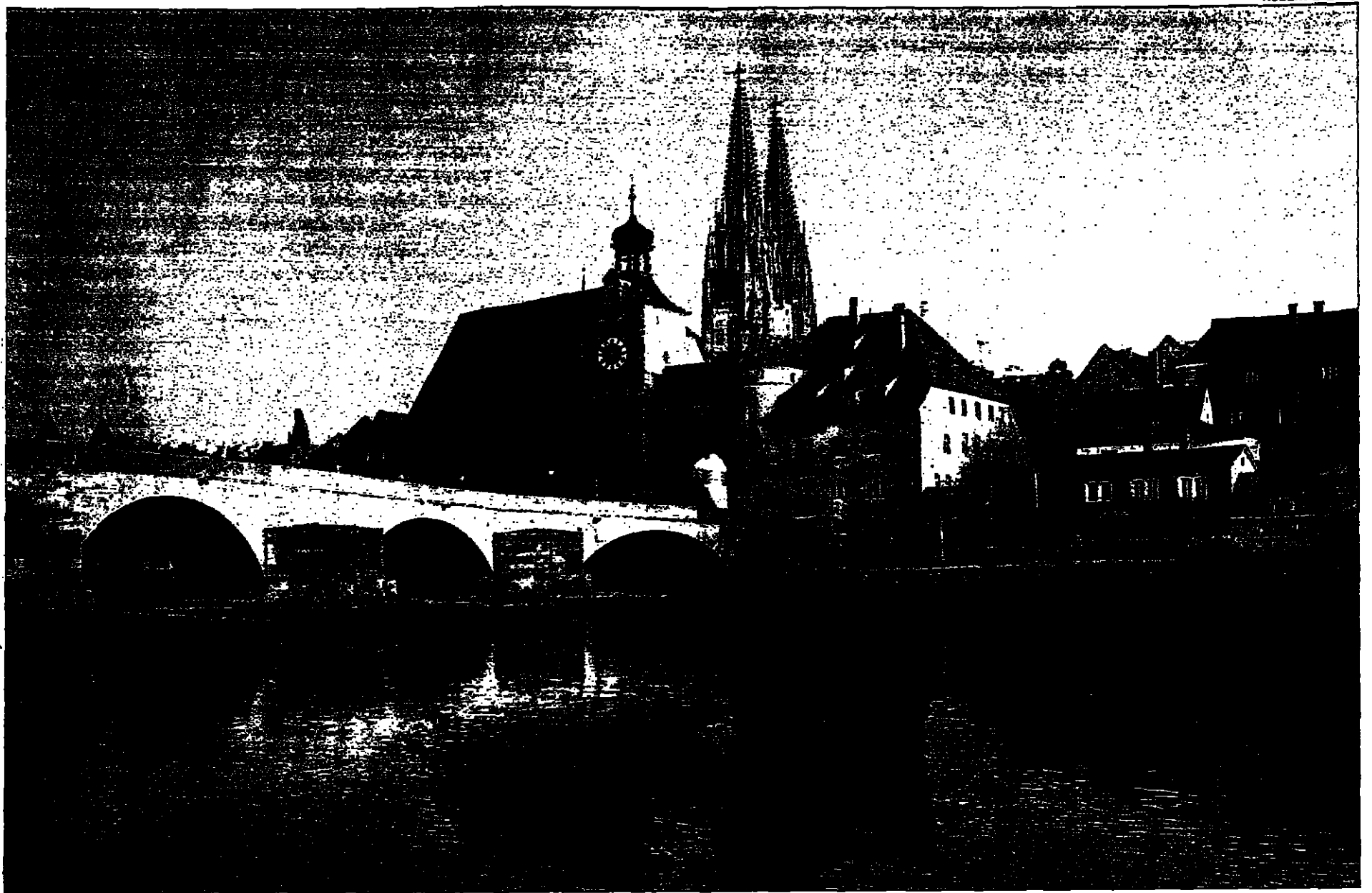
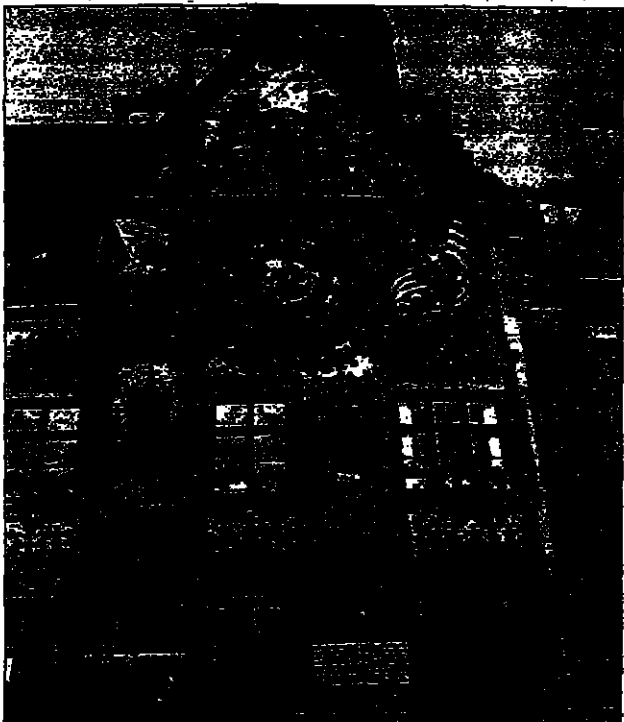
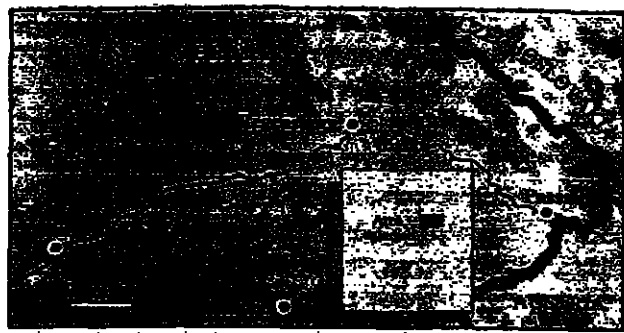
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TRAVEL

River towns in waltz time

Hilary Finch takes in silly stories and Swabian sausages along the Danube from Ulm to Passau



Passages of time: left, ornamental clock on the Rathaus at Ulm, tucked in a bend of the young Danube, which shapes the city's character. Right, the old bridge downstream at Regensburg, an illusion of Italy in Bavaria and a monument to wealth and stability

U nlike the Tailor of Gloucester who, with the aid of an army of mice, grew rich making fine waistcoats for gentlemen, the Tailor of Ulm ended his life in the workhouse.

Albrecht Berblinger one day decided to fashion his silk and fishbones into a glider, and in May 1811 tried to fly over the Danube from one bank to another. The wind turned round that morning; the air currents were wrong; he told the assembled crowds that the experiment was impossible. They insisted, he fell in; and the figure who now twirls on a thousand children's mobiles in Ulm's boutiques, and is celebrated as a man of genius, was ridiculed and ostracized until his dying day.

The city of Ulm, tucked in a bend on the young German Danube between the Swabian Alps and Lake Constance, is busy with such eccentric storytelling. Rudolf Dentler, the city's 68-year-old silver-smith, looks set to be the tailor's successor. He wears a

bishop's mitre and practises ballet while playing his trade. It's true, I saw him.

But if Ulm has the silliest stories in Germany, it can also pride itself on fitting the Danube blue long before it reaches Vienna. The city is watered by a tributary called the Blaue wherever you walk, it is there, gliding and gurgling its way into the big river just by the old wall. At the "Zur Forelle" I ate *maifischchen*, a sort of spinach-filled ravioli floating in soup, and a pile of *breitspätzle*, the best noodles in Swabia, before taking an evening stroll round the city wall. In the space of half an hour, I had discovered no fewer than three secret gardens: one for the blind, rich in texture and aroma; one for apothecaries, golden with late calendula and maize-for-gynaecological-disorder; and one emulating the Sahara, just a couple of yards from the river bank.

Despite a Gothic cathedral which boasts the highest spire in the world, Ulm takes its character from the river itself.

The Danube has brought not only trade (Protestant Ulm used to do a fine line in exporting snails to Catholic Austria for Lent), but also a constant passage of peoples. It was from Ulm, for instance, that the Swabians of the Danube emigrated to Hungary in the 18th century, only to return, as refugees and exiles, at the end of the last war.

If the flow and contraflow of emigrants have marked Ulm with an almost palpable sense of patient humanity, then Regensburg, 150 miles further downstream, stands as a monument to prosperity and stability. It was one vast stage set for all the merchants of Venice who ever lived, and is now an illusion of Italy in Bavaria, an architectural encyclopaedia of rose towers, arches, loggias and palazzi, emulating their partners in trade and outdoing one another.

Restoration is lavish and comprehensive. There is experimental theatre in pristine Renaissance courtyards, gallery-cafes under wide arcades, modern flats sprouting outcrops of pilasters and fragments of figurines. And suddenly, in the middle of a wall, there will be strange standing stones covered with rune-like Hebrew inscriptions: the remains of synagogues, abandoned in 1519.

I t was in Regensburg that the first German coffee-house was opened to break the diets of emperors, elector-princes and dukes meeting opposite in the Imperial Diet Chamber of the old Rathaus. Now it celebrates Regensburg's other great institution, the family of Thurn und Taxis. They had a monopoly on the European postal system in the 16th century; now Gloria, eccentric and jet-setting young wife of the old prince, is fixed in her very own chocolate, hand-made in the Café Prinzess.

A curious cloud of dense, sausage-scented smoke hangs over the Danube from the ringing of the first morning bell to the six o'clock Angelus and beyond. However many Gloria choirs you may already have tucked away, it is impos-

sible not to be led by the nose to a tiny 12th-century hut called the Wurstküchle, on the shores of the river by the old stone bridge. Elsa, 85 and married only to her dark, acrid kitchen, dishes out the succulent sausages in infinite multiples of two, and Rosa, almost her equal in years, serves them al fresco, with vast flower-vases of beer.

Italy suddenly seems far away. And just in case one

needed further geographical reorientation, a boat may be taken for a pleasant 50-minute cruise down the river to a hillside temple called Valhalla. Built after the Napoleonic wars by Ludwig I of Bavaria, this immense and macabre parthenon, reached by 358 steps, is a hall of fame for the great of the German-speaking nations. Among its 121 busts, there is Mendel but no Mendelssohn, Bruckner

but no Mahler, Eichendorff but no Heine. "Where is Heine?" I demanded. "He called the place a tomb of marble skeletons, so he didn't stand a chance," was the reply.

The Danube flows, unperturbed, to Passau and the Austrian border. Its true blue is now irretrievably compromised by the confluence of the black Ill, peaty from the Bohemian Forest, and the green and glacial Inn from the

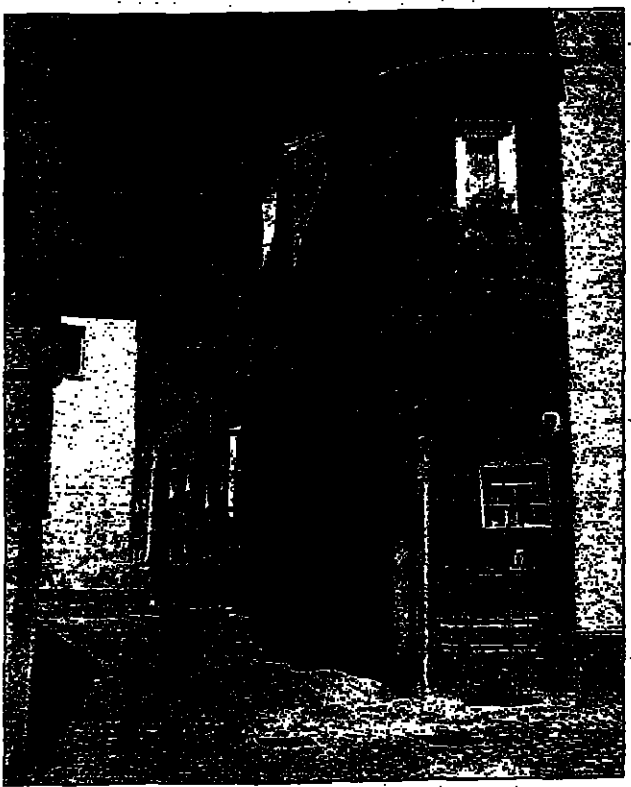
Swiss Alps. Clustered on a spit of land between the Inn and the Danube, Passau has suffered more than most from the architectural insensitivities of the 1960s, and only now is the aesthetic revolution of the last two decades beginning to take effect.

As the Gothic end of St Stephen's Cathedral is meticulously reassembled and restored, its high baroque interior remains a cornucopia

of Italian exuberance. Stucco cherubs tumble out of frescos, and at noon the echo register of the world's largest church organ purrs out of the "Holy Ghost" hole in the roof. The twin towers, aping those of Salzburg, look pointedly downstream, where the boats of the Donaudampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft start their long journey out of Germany to Vienna, Budapest and the Black Sea.



Still waters: old houses at Ulm, true home of the blue river



Exuberant shades of restoration: new life in Passau's old town

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Bermuda

TRAVEL NOTES

● Lufthansa flies to Stuttgart (for Ulm) from £96 (Apex return) to £372 (first class), and to Munich (for Regensburg and Passau) from £112 to £418. Rail and road connections are excellent: those with more time and energy might like to cycle along the Danube from Ulm to Regensburg. An excellent Donau-Radwander-Karte pocket map set guides you in stages along the route.

● All three cities offer a wide range of accommodation. I stayed in the Intercity Hotel in Ulm, the exquisitely restored patrician Alstadt Arh in Regensburg, and the Weisser Hase in Passau, all medium price. Expect to pay about £40 a night for a double room, £30 for a single.

● DER (18 Conduit Street, London W1, 01-408 0111) offer a "History Lover's Holiday" taking in Regensburg and Passau. Taber Holidays (126 Sunbridge Road, Bradford, Yorks, or 01-441 4010) offer city breaks in Regensburg.

● Further information from the German National Tourist Office, 85 Curzon Street, London W1 (01-495 3990).

THE WEEK AHEAD

THEATRE
LONDON

THE ISLAND OF SLAVES/THE COLONY: Double-bill of Marivaux philosophical comedies. Gate Theatre Club, Prince Albert, 11 Pembroke Road, W11 (01-229 0706). Opens Tues.

MY MOTHER SAID I NEVER SHOULD: London premiere of a portrait of four generations of women by Charlotte Kestley, an award-winning Manchester in 1987. Michael Attenborough directs Sheila Reid, Elizabeth Bradley, Jane Gurnett, Shirley Henderson. Royal Court, Stoney Square, SW1 (01-730 1745). Previews from today. Opens Mar 2.

METROPOLIS: Brian Blessed, Judy Kuhn, Graham Bickley, Jonathan Adams and Paul Keown in a musical by Joe Brooks. Dusty Hughes and Mick Jones, directed by Jérôme Savary, based on the 1926 Fritz Lang film classic. Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (01-867 1116). (Postponed) previews from today. Opens March 8.

THE ONE-SIDED WALL: Cindy O'Connell performs Janet Greenwell and Nick Johnson's story of a woman abused and victimized by the mental health and psychiatric system. Bush Theatre, Shepherd's Bush Green, W14 (01-743 8889). Previews from Tues. Opens Fri.

POOR NANNY: New comedy by Sam Mathias, who directs John Barron, Jill Bennett, Hugh Padwick, Jonathan Cecil, Susie Blake, John Hudson, Heather Eames, Neil Dargish, Katie Randall, in a tale of a family reunion to pay respects to the long-serving nanny. King's Head, Upper Street, N1 (01-226 1916). Previews from Tues. Opens Mar 13.

STEEL MAGNOLIAS: Robert Harting's US success, set in a Louisiana beauty parlour. Directed by Julia McKenzie, with Rosemary Harris, Jean Ebo, Maggie Steed, Stephanie Cole, Janine Davids and Joely Richardson. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue (01-4367 3886). Previews from Mon. Opens Mar 7.

TRUE WEST: Shared Experience bring their touring production of the Sam Shepard play to London. Nancy Maclean directs. Battersea Arts Centre, Old Town Hall, Lavender Hill, SW11 (01-223 2223). Opens Wed. Moves to the Boulevard (01-437 2661) on Mar 14.

VERY PRIVATE DIARY: Victor Spinetti's one-man show about his own very colourful life and career. Donmar Warehouse, Stratford Street, WC2 (01-240 8230). Opens Mon.

OUT OF TOWN

GLASGOW: The Yellow on the Brown. New touring production of Anne Downie's adaptation from a book by Betsy White, about a family of "travelling people". Tron (041 552 4267). Opens Tues.

MANCHESTER: A Taste of Honey: Ian Hastings directs Shelagh Delaney's Fifties tale, updated to the Eighties with a band on stage. Royal Exchange (061 833 9533). Preview Wed. Opens Thurs.

SHEFFIELD: William Tell: Stephen Lowe's adaptation of the classic tale by Friedrich Schiller, directed by Clare Venables, with Neil Morrissey. Crucible (0742 769822). Previews Thurs eve, Fri mat. Opens Fri eve.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS: European British premiere of Australian drama by Michael Gow. Touring southern England. Trinity Arts Centre (0892 44899). Tonight only. Guildford Mill Studio (0483 80191). Tues-Thurs.

WATFORD: Diplomatic Wives: Anna Carteret, Charlotte Cornwall and Will Knightley in the world premiere of Louise Page's drama about a diplomatic couple whose lives are changed by a visitor. Palace (0923 225671). Opens Thurs.

CONCERTS

IBERIAN INSIGHTS: One of the great interpretations of our time is Alicia de Larrocha's of Albéniz's Iberia cycle, and she today plays Books 3 and 4, preceding them with Schubert's Piano Sonata D 864. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-438 8891). Today, 7.45pm.

DREAM CAROUSELS: In the second of the series of three concerts celebrating 25 years of Redcliffe Concerts the National Youth Choir sings motets by Guerrero, Byrd, Tallis, Gibbons, the Royal Northern College of Music Wind Orchestra play Holst's Hammersmith, Michael Hall's Paganini, they combine for Stravinsky's Mass, and there is the world premiere of Anthony Gilbert's Dream Carousels. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800). Tomorrow, 3.15pm.

THOMAS/LSO: Wagner's Siegfried Idyll and Mahler's Symphony No 5 are heard from the LSO under Michael Tilson Thomas. Barbican Centre, Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

MUTI MUSIC: Riccardo Muti conducts the LPO in Brahms's Academic Festival Overture, Violin Concerto (Kyung-Wha Chung, soloist) and Symphony No 2. Festival Hall, Mon, 7.30pm.

NEWS OF NISSMAN: Barbara Nissman gives the first of three recitals devoted to Prokofiev's piano music, this time with Sonatas Nos 7 and 8, Visions Fugitives and the Etudes Op 2. Wigmore Hall, 38 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-935 2141). Tues, 7.30pm.

HEAR HAITING: The LPO is conducted by Bernard Haitink in Elgar's Introduction and Allegro, Richard Strauss's 4 Last Songs with Felicity Lott (soprano) and Mahler's Symphony No 4. Festival Hall, Fri, 7.30pm.



Christine Keeler (Joanna Whalley) with lover John Profumo (Ian McKellen) in *Scandal*, opening on Friday

Whatever else it may be, the Profumo affair is a fascinating story, and ripe material for cinematic treatment. Many of the participants are still around, of course — something which always gives *Scandal* a special interest. But now comes *Scandal*, documenting the tale of the affair in 1961-3 that pushed the then Prime Minister Harold Wilson into the headlines, raised the career of John Profumo's Secretary of State for War, caused society osteopath Stephen Ward to commit suicide, and brought Britain to the brink of the swinging Sixties. In 1980, an Australian-born screenwriter, Michael Thomas, began research. He interviewed some of the survivors, and ultimately wrote a five-hour mini-series, to be made by the BBC and the enter-

prising Palace Productions. When the corporation backed out, reticence followed. The promising young director Michael Cates-Jones was hired, and the script distilled to feature-length; the focus now was on the bizarre love affair between Ward and Keeler, and Ward's harsh treatment at his Old Bailey trial. Keeler visited the set, talking to her impersonator, Joanna Whalley, and John Hurt (cast as Stephen Ward). Ian McKellen wrote to his own real-life equivalent, John Profumo; there was no response. The affair seems destined to hit the headlines yet again. *Scandal* (18), opens in London at the Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111), from Friday.

Geoff Brown

RADIO

THE PATH OF VIRTUE: A report by Trevor Barnes on the English Sunday school, with a glance back to its Victorian tradition and an assessment of the future. Radio 4, Wed, 11-11.47am.

NORTHERN LIGHTS: Starting a new six part series, Phil Smith visits the Lancashire mill town of Colne and unearths memories in the auction saleroom. Radio 4, Fri, 4.05-4.30pm.

RUR: Simon Ward and Tessa Peaske-Jones in a new production of Karel Capek's 1920s play which introduced "robot" into the English language. Radio 3, Fri, 7.30-9.15pm.

TELEVISION

THESE FOOLISH THINGS: James Fox and Lindsay Duncan lead Elizabeth Spender's drama of a newspaper editor embarking on a new romance while still in love with his estranged wife. BBC1, Tues, 9.30-10.45pm.

SHADOW OF THE NOOSE: The first of eight dramatised courtroom battles featuring the Victorian barrister, Edward Marshall Hall. BBC1, Tues, 9.30-10.45pm.

DANCE

LEICESTER INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL: Opens Thursday with the French company Cré-Angé in the highly theatrical *Noir Salle*. Other visitors from Holland, India and USA to follow, plus British companies.

PROBARTS: Arts (0533 555627) and other venues until March 19.

RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY: At Birmingham rep (021-238 4455) give works by Siobhan Davies, David Gordon and Ashley Page Monday to Wednesday.

Cunningham and Tudor with the premiere of Richard Alston's *Cinema* Thursday to March 4.

JAZZ

MODERN JAZZ QUARTET: John Lewis presides over the chamber-jazz veterans with the irrepressible Milt Jackson. Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 (01-928 8800) Wed.

ANITA O'DAY: A week's residency from the Jazz On A Summer's Day singer. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (01-439 0747) Mon to Sat.

A LITTLE WESTBROOK MUSIC:

Mike and Kate Westbrook's sophisticated cabaret revue, featuring saxophonist Chris Biscoe.

Four Bars Inn, Cardiff (0222 374982) Thurs; Padham Town Hall, Burnley (Info 0282 30055) Fri; Darlington Arts Centre (0325 483168) Sat.

JAZZ ARTISTS AGAINST APARTHEID: Performances by new fusion stars Roadside Picnic, plus the Roger Burns Band, the Ed Jones Quartet and Keith Tippett. Bristol University Union (Info 0272 735035) Thurs.

GALLERIES

THE EUSTON ROAD "SCHOOL": Works by the informal group of figurative artists and their followers, including pictures by Cockshead, Pasmore and Gowing. Austin Desmond Fine Art, London WC1 (01-242 4443). From Thurs.

FELIX VALLOTTON (1865-1925): Paintings, watercolours, drawings and woodcuts by the minor member of Les Nabis, the group of French artists which included Bonnard and Vuillard among its members. JPL Fine Art, London W1 (01-493 2630). From Wed.

ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG: Four paintings plus a series of new graphics incorporating colourful fabrics found during the artist's recent visit to Soviet Central Asia. Fabian Carlson Gallery, London W1 (01-408 0819). From Wed.

SIR PETER SCOTT: Wildlife paintings, mainly depicting duck and geese, by the naturalist and conservationist. London W1 (01-493 3288). From Thurs.

ROCK

THE STRAY CATS: Welcome return of the reformed "Runaway Boys". Tonight, University of East Angles, Norwich (0603 505401); Mon. Assembly Hall, Worthing (0903 620500); Tues, Leicester University (0533 552822); Wed, Rock City, Nottingham (0802 412544); Thurs, Lass Carr Hall, Folkestone (0303 59193).

DAGMAR KRAUSE: Following up her album, *Tank Battles*, a grim collection of works by the German composer Hanna Eisler. Tomorrow, Royal Court, London SW1 (01-730 1745).

RANDY NEWMAN: The waspish, New Orleans-born singer-songwriter, fresh from the BRITs awards fiasco. Fri and Sat 4, Dominion, London W1 (01-580 9592).

PHOTOGRAPHY

EYEWITNESS: 200 black and white and colour pictures from around the world celebrating three decades of World Press Photography — the Amsterdam based organization founded in 1956 to promote international understanding throughout press photography. Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, London NW9 (01-435 2643).

THURSTON HOPKINS: A delicious nostalgic romp through the 1950s by self-taught picture postcard photographer, Thurston Hopkins. All prints are for sale. The Print Room, The Photographers Gallery, 5 and 8 Great Newport Street, London, WC2 (01-831 1772).

FILMS

RAIN MAN (15): Compelling drama, already laden with eight Oscar nominations, with Tom Cruise as a callow young hustler trying to trick his autistic brother (Dustin Hoffman) out of a three million dollar inheritance. Directed by Barry Levinson. Plaza (01-437 1234), from Fri.

D.O.A. (15): A film noir classic from 1949 reworked in gaudy, sleight-of-hand style by the creators of *MacHeadroom*, Rocky Morton and Annabel Jankel. Dennis Quaid stars as the poisoned professor with 24 hours to unravel the mystery of his imminent death. Cannon Oxford Street (01-836 0310), from Fri.

THE UNHOLY (18): Ambitious tale of a Catholic priest assigned to cast

out the devil from a New Orleans church. Directed by Camillo Vasta, with a superior cast — Ben Cross, Hal Holbrook, Ned Beatty, the late Trevor Howard. Cannon Oxford Street (01-836 0310), from Fri.

FILMS ON TV

DEFENCE OF THE REALM (1985): First television showing for David Drury's polished thriller about politics and journalism: fine playing from Gabriel Byrne and Denholm Elliott. Channel 4, Mon, 9.30-11.20pm.

SOUTHERN COMFORT (1981): Walter Hill's Vietnam War allegory, in which National Guardsmen have a torrid time in the Louisiana swamps: with Keith Carradine and Powers Boothe. BBC1, Mon, 10.10-11.50pm.

PRINCE OF THE CITY (1981): Treat Williams as a New York detective who turns in former in Sydney Lumet's a sombre study of police corruption, based on a real case. Channel 4, Fri, 10.30pm-1.50am.

OPERA



ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: First appearance in London of the Hungarian State Opera and Ballet, led by Bartok (above) of *The Miraculous Mandarin*, *The Wizard Prince* and *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* on Mon and Tues at 7.30pm; and *Mandarin* and *Bluebeard* with *Variations on a Nursery Song* on Wed at 8pm. On Thurs at 8pm on first performance of *Un re in asolito*. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: David Pountney's new production of *Falstaff*, tonight, Tues and Fri; On Wed and Sat March 4 further performances of *The Pearl Fishers*. On Thurs one final performance of *Reinhold Gliere's* *All performances start at 7.30pm*. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

Theatre: Tony Patrick; Film: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Books: David Sedaris; Music: Chris Davies; Dance: John Pevsner; Games: David Lee; Photography: Mike Young; Television, Radio and Film on TV: Peter Waymark.

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1970	475	495	485	485
1971	775	828	1,203	1,203
1972	1,075	1,177	1,992	1,992
1973	1,375	1,565	1,948	1,948
1974	1,675	1,998	1,921	1,921
1975	1,975	2,456	3,016	3,016
1976	2,275	2,943	3,394	3,394
1977	2,575	3,464	7,835	7,835
1978	2,875	4,002	10,080	10,080
1979	3,175	4,661	12,394	12,394
1980	3,475	5,473	14,538	14,538
1981	3,775	6,302	17,307	17,307
1982	4,075	7,184	16,747	16,747
1983	4,375	8,027	24,184	24,184
1984	4,675	8,973	32,233	32,233
1985	4,975	10,085	40,964	40,964
1986	5,275	11,194	61,064	61,064
1987	5,575	12,374	76,517	76,517
1988	5,875	13,571*	90,707	90,707
31 Jan 89	5,900	13,691*	100,215	100,215

*Notes: All figures include reinvested income net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account Scheme. Central Standard Office — Revalued Standard. M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. An investment of £25 a month in M&G Recovery Fund from 31st January 1984 (£1,500) would have grown to £2,574 by 31st January 1989 with net income reinvested. *Estimated.

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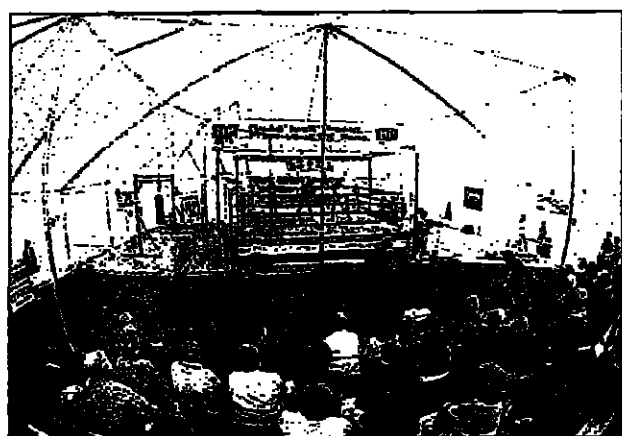
BANKERS ORDER

The making of a money-spinner

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS COLE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS COLE

From a poor background in south London to a multi-million pound world title fight in Las Vegas . . . Srikumar Sen charts the rise, fall, and irresistible rise of Frank Bruno



Bruno under canvas: training has become a spectator sport

Frank Bruno is the most remarkable success story of British boxing, perhaps even of British sporting history. This is not because he is a winner, but because he cannot lose. In an age when winning is everything, if Bruno goes only three rounds with the formidable Mike Tyson in Las Vegas in the early hours of tomorrow morning, they will say he did well. If he is there for seven or eight rounds, he will be a national hero.

He will also be a millionaire, receiving £2 million for his pains, and marketing experts say he can keep on winning in money terms: his earnings outside the ring will not be affected even if he is beaten and retires.

Sociologists can no doubt explain why the British give him special treatment, when they are less than kind to other, far better sportsmen when they fail. Do they see him more as an entertainer than a sportsman? Is it because he is a product of our consumer society, where nothing succeeds like financial success?

Whatever the deeper meanings, the simple answer is that he is the nation's huggable Bruno Bear. He is the kind of

person families love to have to tea. No wonder chain store owners are falling over their counters to pay him £5,000 to open their supermarkets.

It may seem a paradox that the nation's favourite sportsman is part of a dangerous and violent sport, the "hurt business" as Tyson calls it, condemned by doctors, and seen by its critics as a pigsty run by not very nice people. But boxers, if not boxing, have always found a special place in the hearts of the British: Kid Lewis, Carpentier, Dempsey, Wilde, Harvey, Farr, Louis, Ali, Cooper, McGuigan. They are like neon lights that illuminate, not particularly nice places, but attract all the same.

The making of Frank Bruno has nothing of *Champion* or *On the Waterfront* or *Raging Bull*. There are no shabby patches visible when the neon lights go out. It is a story about making big money out of boxing: how, with the help of television, a heavyweight with not much more than a knock-out punch challenges Tyson for the world title. Since the boxer himself believes that he could be a contender, it is also a story of disappointment and drama, success and failure, deflation and elation, courage and triumph.



Portrait of a believer: whatever happens in Las Vegas, Frank Bruno cannot lose. The British public will still love him, and chain store owners will go on giving him £5,000 to open their shops

saved from a life of kicking cans around south London streets by boxing. Then British leading contender. Then the marketing men go to work and everybody ends up very rich.

Thanks to the BBC, Harry Carpenter, and the catchphrase "Know what I mean, 'Arry?" Bruno comes over as a lovable young man as unpretentious as HP sauce and

soft as Mother's Pride, a "lovely boy", as Windsor Davies used to say. In a

ghosted biography. Bruno says: "It's not been bad for a poor black cockney from south of the Thames, who was so bright at school that when he was asked by a teacher

where the Magna Carta was signed, he said "At the bottom of the page, Miss". All the world loves a man who can laugh at himself. Before long schoolboys could be following the adventures of 'Arry and Frank in *The Beano* or *Dandy* or in a television cartoon series.

These days Bruno lives in a detached house in Essex, with his girlfriend, Laura, daughters Nicola, six, and Rachel, two, and two Dobermanns. He drives a Granada Ghia and plans to have a swimming-pool and horses. He has indeed come a long way from Barmouth Road, Wandsworth, where he grew up with his sisters Faye, Angela and Joanne, and his big brother, Michael, and where their mother, Lynette, still lives. But he looks back with affection on those days.

"My brother Michael used to say 'Franklyn, you've got it. God's spotlight has fallen on you.'" Bruno says. After he won the ABA title, Michael wrote above the kitchen door: "Frank Bruno, Heavyweight Champion of the World, 1986".

Bruno's first punches were thrown as the bully-boy of Swoffield Primary School. Mothers were forever complaining to Mrs Bruno: "Look at what your Frank's done to my boy." And she would say to Frank: "Franklyn, just wait till your father gets home!" At school, "Bruno, report to the headmaster" was the order of the day as he punched reluctant opponents. "I just wanted to be noticed," Bruno says. He gained recognition when he was accused of trying to beat up a master - he was expelled.



Road runner: Bruno working out with trainer George Francis

'Franklyn, you've got it. God's spotlight has fallen on you'

His mother sent him to Oak Hall, a GLC boarding school for difficult boys. He knuckled under for fear of the slipper and excelled at games. At 11 weights, he built up a powerful physique. He became head boy, and represented Sussex schools at football and athletics

He had 21 bouts as an amateur and was beaten only once, by Joe Christie of Duluth, but he avenged that defeat. After winning the ABA title at 18, in 1980, he met Lawless, who told him: "The only promise I'll make you is that if you sign with me I'll give you the best possible preparation for your contests."

Bruno applied for a professional licence, but the Boxing Board turned him down because of short-sightedness in the right eye, and he had to go to Bogota for a special operation, all paid for by Lawless. He returned with perfect vision, but had to wait a year before he could get his licence. It was in this period, according to Bruno, that he

To Bruno's enormous credit, he stopped Cummings in the seventh round. But the American's blow exposed Bruno's inability to see punches travelling in an arc, and to handle a crisis. It was the same seven months later when Bonecrusher Smith, a novice, hit him with a jumbo left in the tenth round. Bruno received 14 more blows before falling unconscious to the floor. Amazingly, the next day Bruno performed the most significant feat of his career. He brought Lawless back from the brink of retirement.

After the defeats of Bruno and Mark Kaylor, Lawless had decided to quit. Bruno told him: "One day I'm going to be world champion, and I can't do it without you," and lifted his manager up off the floor.

In March 1986, Bruno met a tired South African, Gerrie Coetzee, who by some strange good fortune was still WBA number one contender. Bruno wiped him out in the first round and became the number one. But in July, he was again in a pitiful condition in the eleventh round from blows by Witherspoon, and Iaville had to rush to his aid.

LaRussa had to rush to his aid. Bruno's career seemed to be over. But after a last-minute campaign over four years he had the best part of £1 million in the bank. Then, as Tyson started running out of opponents in the next year, it became clear that if Bruno could again reach the number one contender's position, a fortune could be made. After a few months of three-month waits, Bruno stopped flabbing. He Bugner in eight rounds in London, and was back at the top waiting for Tyson. He waited 15 months without throwing a punch; there was too much at stake for his bankers to risk even a warm-up fight. Last the waiting is over. It's a record.

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Superstar status: Bruno's generous fans forgive all his failures — do they see him more as an entertainer than a sportsman?

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Information

Mixed fortune

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ATHLETICS: NATIONAL TITLES AT STAKE IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES

Lewis and Tunstall strive to be king of the country

By Pat Butcher
Athletics Correspondent

Steve Tunstall and Dave Lewis renew their early-season rivalry in a national championship, which, despite its relegation in the calendar as an elite race, remains the most important contest to date.

The world cross country trial, now in its second year, is clearly the best top-class race in Britain, but the English, Scottish and Welsh club championships today still rank as the most spectacular of cross country events. Held respectively in Cheam — where 2,000 runners will contest the senior title — Hawick and Cardiff, they are not short of elite competitors either.

Tunstall has beaten Lewis, his Lancashire neighbour, in all four of their meetings this season. But Lewis missed the trial for the world championships through illness, with Tunstall finishing seventh when he might have done well to withdraw with a stomach upset.

Lewis was added to the British team for the world championship, but Tunstall

few sportsmen can claim to have won a national title within a stone's throw of their birthplace, but Neil Tennant, a Cambridge-based Scot, will be striving for just that when he defends the Scottish cross country title at Winton Lodge, Hawick, this afternoon (Barry Townbridge writes). Tennant was born "100 metres from the park" in 1962, and lived in Hawick until he moved south at the age of eight.

A member of Edinburgh Southern Harriers, Tennant was not named by the Scottish selectors for the world championship trial at Gateshead two weeks ago, though he was not unduly bothered by what many

was not eligible, because of a year's international suspension, having competed for France last year while he was in the Foreign Legion.

Both men are fit for today and the principal interest will be in how Tunstall fares in his first 16-kilometre race and his first English national since finishing 79th in the youth's race in 1981.

Birchfield just lost their English women's national title last week, and their young men's team, albeit bolstered by Dave Black, engaged in a comeback, will be hard

pressed to defend the title against Bristol with Nick Rose and Deon McNeilly, Brighton and Hove, Tipton, Gateshead and, possibly, Invicta East Kent.

One area where Birchfield will probably never be equalled is in the Birmingham club's domination of this, and many other, team championships throughout the last century. Since their first entry, in the fifth English championships, in 1880, Birchfield have won the team title 45 times and been placed in the first three on 28 further occasions.

This, and much more of fascination and anecdote can be found in *The History of Birchfield Harriers, 1877-1988*, edited by Professor W. O. Alexander (descendant of the brother founders), and Will Morgan. It can be obtained by sending £5.95, including postage, to V Stokes, 80 Craythorne Avenue, Birmingham, B20 1LN.

Jon Solly was incensed yesterday at news that the English Commonwealth 10,000 metres trial has been brought forward two months, to June 23, thereby jeopardising his chances of defending the title he won in Edinburgh in 1984.

Solly, preparing to leave next week for three months' training in Kenya, said: "It seems fair enough to split the 5,000 and 10,000 metres trials, but to move the decision now is totally illogical."

"I've been off for virtually two years with leg problems. I've run out of money, I've sold my house to finance the Kenya trip, with a view to having 10 weeks' racing when I get back to prepare myself properly, and now this."

regarded as a surprise omission. "They chose not to select me, that's their choice. If nobody wants me, I'm certainly not going to beg. At least I can get on with doing what I want."

In the short term that includes making the Scottish team for the Commonwealth Games, in Auckland, this time next year — "certainly at 10,000 metres, although I would like to be considered for the marathon."

Although he has raced only sporadically this winter, victory over five miles on the roads of Rutland last Sunday, in a record 22min 48sec, suggests he has run into form perfectly for the defence of his crown.

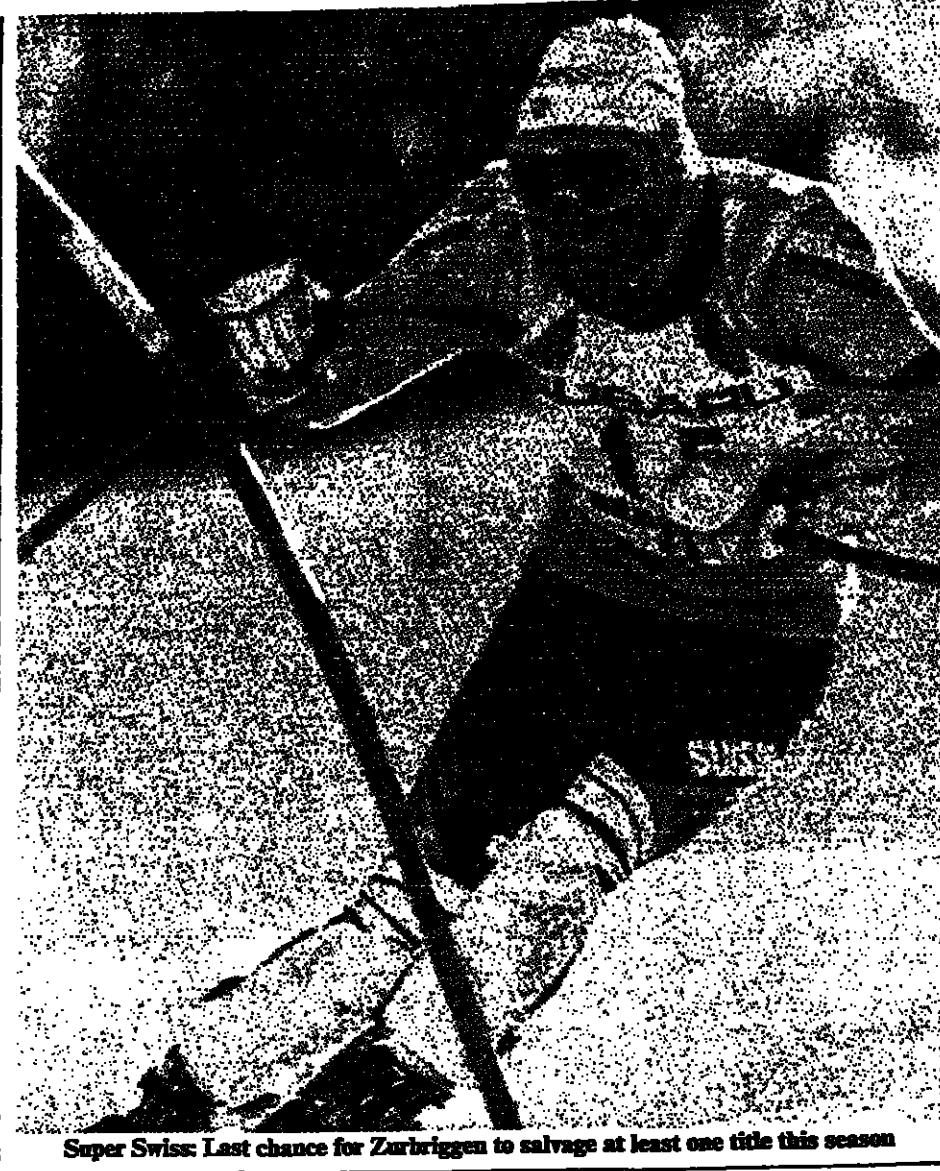
At the start of the second half each side squandered a corner but then Old Loughtonians gathered their resources and Ashton increased their lead.

After Faulkner had come on, Faulkner made desperate attempts to save the match.

Everything seemed to be going well for Fareham until the sixth minute when a foot infringement conceded a corner and Halls levelled the score. Fareham went ahead again with Nail scoring from a corner with a well placed scoop. But Old Loughtonians came back strongly and Gladman levelled the score at 2-2. Shortly before the interval Old Loughtonians went ahead, Thompson directing a free hit to the unmarked Halls, who scored with a well placed shot.

At the start of the second half each side squandered a corner but then Old Loughtonians gathered their resources and Ashton increased their lead.

After Faulkner had come on, Faulkner made desperate attempts to save the match.



Super Swiss: Last chance for Zurbriggen to salvage at least one title this season

SKIING

Just pride at stake in the last downhill

From Iain Macleod
Whistler Mountain
British Columbia

Two hours' drive north of Vancouver, many of the weary entourage which, since November, has accompanied the "white circus", will this week-end have a sigh of relief when the penultimate race of the World Cup downhill and a super giant slalom.

There still remains the unenviable, long haul to Japan for the decisive slalom and giant slalom races which will be held over the next two weekends, but for the downhillers this is the final junction.

Only the downhill title has been conclusively settled and even if the new champion, Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, also seems certain to don the overall crown, the three slalom titles still bear an undecided taint.

In practical terms, today's downhill is nothing more than an exercise in pride. It may serve to increase Girardelli's lead in the overall standings, but of greater importance will be the motivating factor for tomorrow's decisive super giant slalom.

It is, for Firmin Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, perhaps the final opportunity to salvage one title from a season which began with such promise, but gradually faded into obscurity as a combination of illness and injury weakened his resolve.

The defending super giant slalom champion, Zurbriggen finished sixth at Aspen last weekend to maintain a tenuous seven-point lead over the Olympic champion, Franz Kuitert, of East Germany. Zurbriggen's new world champion, Martin Hangl, a further three points adrift.

The conditions are, as always, less than perfect here. Whistler, unlike Vancouver, has to contend with a curious climate which has a combination of wet, coastal conditions and the warmer interior climate. The end product: a changeable diet of snow, rain, fog, high winds and rising temperatures.

Fog and rain caused the cancellation of three of the first four downhill races. Zurbriggen left many of the racers complaining that the 3,152-metre course was dangerous. Wet, heavy snow on Thursday took its toll and Marnet Coppola, of Italy, suffered a broken leg.

Confusion into a world best

By Steven Downes

After the 450 metres freestyle race on Thursday at the World Cup meeting at Barnet Copthall yesterday produced a 10.17sec world best for the 25-metre sprint which lasted all of 40 minutes.

Confusion reigned over the shortest event on the programme after a third false start to the final, caused by Mike Fibbens. Under the rulebook of FINA, the international governing body, there is not meant to be any recall by the starter after such a premature start, but this race exposed a flaw in the rule. Fibbens' dive was so pre-emptive that, after a short pause for thought, four of the other finalists followed him into the water to race. But the electronic timing system, which is activated by the starter's signal, had not started running because there had been no signal.

Had the starter left it at that, all five men in the water could

have been disqualified, but instead he triggered a long blast, leaving no one sure whether it was a start or recall, and leaving three men dripping angrily on their backs.

Dano Halsall, from Switzerland, the holder of the world best, got to the end first in 10.14sec, but then the arguments began. The officials' first reaction was to call for a re-swing, which proved unpopular with those still breathless from their one-length dash. Despite no formal appeal being lodged, a jury of appeal took more than 10 minutes to ponder a decision, eventually giving all but Fibbens the opportunity to re-contest the race off a once-and-for-all start.

This time, all seven were away by the starter's signal, with three men from the earlier race, Halsall, Stefan Volery and Bernd Hoffmeister, finishing in the same order, with Halsall

taking 0.22sec off his world best time.

It was the second world best of the afternoon, for Daniela Hunger, the Olympic 200 metres medley champion from East Germany, had set a new standard in another event, the 100 metres medley.

RESULTS: Men's Freestyle 25m: D Halsall (Switz), 10.14 (world best); 200m: A Holmertz (Swe), 11m 42.2sec; Backstroke: 100m: C Gifford (Swe), 1:17.1; 200m: R Soutter (NZ), 2:15.3; 400m: G Roberts (Portugal), 5:45.5; Breaststroke: 100m: B N Gough (Ireland), 1:03.10; 200m: M P Farnham (Barnet Copthall), 54.99; Individual medley: 100m: P Dwyer (Ireland), 1:19.84; Women's Freestyle: 100m: L M Seelbach (EG), 57.35sec; 200m: L M Seelbach (EG), 57.44; 400m: L M Seelbach (EG), 57.44; 800m: D Wurzburger (Aust), 5m 35.34; Backstroke: 100m: B Wiegand (EG), 29.88; 200m: S Page (Ireland), 57.44; Breaststroke: 100m: S Bockisch (EG), 1:02.77; 200m: S Bockisch (EG), 1:02.77; 400m: S Bockisch (EG), 1:02.77; Individual medley: 100m: S Bockisch (EG), 1:02.77; 200m: S Bockisch (EG), 1:02.77; 400m: S Bockisch (EG), 1:02.77; 800m: S Bockisch (EG), 1:02.77; 1,000m: S Bockisch (EG), 1:02.77; 1,200m: S Bockisch (EG), 1:02.77; 1,400m: S Bockisch (EG), 1:02.77; 1,600m: S Bockisch (EG), 1:02.77; 1,800m: S Bockisch (EG), 1:02.77; 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SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

A medieval hole in one

The Canadian-born humourist, Stephen Leacock, used his interest in golf to create a series of highly-regarded tales, including some amusing stories about the way he imagined the game might be played in the future — and how it could have been played in the past. Perhaps the most ingenious of these was 'A Medieval Hole In One', first published in 1932. It is not only Leacock at his funniest, but offers a most entertaining alternative explanation for one of the great moments of history...

The Middle Ages, from what we know about them, were days of pretty tall deeds and pretty tall talk. In the Middle Ages, if a man accomplished a feat of arms, or a feat of dexterity, or a feat of anything, he didn't let it get spoiled for want of telling. In witness of which, take the marvelous accounts of archery, swordsmanship, strength, skill, and magic which fill the pages of medieval romance from the Chanson de Roland to Walter Scott.

And there is no doubt that the tall talk of the Middle Ages was greatly helped along by the prevailing habit of tall drinking. They drank in those days not by the glass but by the barrel. They knew nothing of flasks or cups or glasses, or such small degenerate measures as those of their descendants. When they wanted a real drink, they knocked in the head of a cask or tun and gathered round it and drank it to the bottom.

Even for a modest individual drink they needed a flagon — and a flagon in the Middle Ages was of the same size as one of our garden watering-pots. A man who had inside him a couple of flagons of old Malmsey or old Gascony had a power of talk and energy in him no longer known among us. When it is added that old Malmsey only cost ten pennies for a full imperial gallon — six of our quarts — one can see that even the dark age had its bright spots, and that history was not so dry as it is called.

As a result, not only were the deeds and feats of arms of the Middle Ages bigger than ours, but even the narration of them had more size. And the spectators and witnesses, having sopped up on their own account a few hogheads of mead or sack, could see more, far more, than our poor dried-out audiences. In witness of which take any account of any tournament, bear-fight, bull-fight, archer match or rat-hunt anywhere from AD 1000 to 1500.

For all of which deeds and performances, the running accompaniment of knocking in hogheads and draining flagons kept the whole event in character. No king in the Middle Ages ever appeared at a public tournament or joust without ordering the ends of half a dozen casks of sack to be knocked in. No royal christening was ever held without tuns of ale being distributed or broached for

the populace, and pipes of wine being pumped into the nobility. At all big celebrations there were huge bonfires. Oxen were roasted whole. Any good man would get away with fifteen pounds of roast meat, six gallons of ale and a flagon of brandy, and go roaring home with an atmosphere round him like the mist round a brewery.

Those were great days. We cannot compete with them.

But in just one point the superiority is ours. The medieval people didn't have our opportunities. Their archery and their tournaments were poor stuff beside our games of today. Just think what would have happened if they had had such a thing as golf in the Middle Ages! Imagine the way in which, with their flagons of sack and their hogheads of Malmsey right on the ground, they could have carried out a golf-match. Imagine what they could have done in the narration of it afterwards! Conceive what could have been made of a medieval hole in one. Our poor unimaginative truth-telling generation can form but little idea as to how they would have dealt with it.

What follows represents an account of a Hole in One, as achieved in the year AD 1215, and related after the style of medieval romance. It is based on the account of the famous tournament and meeting at Ashby de la Zouch during the reign of King John. On that famous occasion, as Walter Scott related in his *Waverley*, there was an archery match between Hubert the Norman, the protégé of King John, and the Mysterious Bowman, Locksley, otherwise Robin Hood the Saxon outlaw.

In this contest Hubert "sped his arrow" (that's the medieval name for what he did) with such consummate skill that it pierced the very centre of the bull's-eye, 300 yards away. But Locksley had a still more consummate touch. He sped his shaft with such unerring dexterity that the point of it struck fair in the notch of Hubert's arrow, still sticking in the bull's-eye, and split it into two exactly even halves! After which even the stung King John had to treat the crowd, a whole meadowful, to two firkins each.

Imagine what would happen if people who could write that kind of thing and people who could believe it had had a chance at a golf story.

Come! Let us turn Hubert and Locksley into their twentieth-century form and make the contest a Hole-in-One Shot! Thus—

All was now prepared. The vast concourse of spectators, both Norman and Saxon, crowded the vacant spaces of the course and even invaded the fairways from which the heralds and pursuivants sought in vain to dislodge them. The humbler churls, or jacks, clustered in the branches of the trees.

At intervals along the course great butts or tuns, by which we mean vats, had been placed, from which not only the yeomanry but even the commonry were permitted that day to drink at the King's expense.

King John was seated on a dais beside the sand-box of Tee No 1 at the edge of which the pious Archbishop Stephen Langton knelt in prayer for the success of the Norman Hubert. Around and about the tee, on tiers of rudely-contrived benches, the Knights of the Household in full (autumn) armour were mingled with the resplendent Ladies of the Court.

"Sirrah!" said the King, turning sternly to Hubert, "dost think thou canst outwit this Saxon fellow?"

"My grandsire," said Hubert, "played in the Hastings handicap, and it shall go hard with me an I fall short of his score."

The King scowled but said nothing.

"What is bogey?" whispered Roger Bigod, Earl of Bygod, to Sir John Montfaucon de la Tour, who stood beside him near the tee.

"Three, so it thinks me," answered Sir John.

"And gives either of the contestants as it were a bique or 'hothey' he in one stroke the fewer?"

"Nay," said Montfaucon, "they play as man to man, or as who should say at scratch."

At this moment, the loud sound of a tucket armoured by the winding of a hobo from the second tee announced that the lists were clear.

"Let the course be measured!" commanded the Chief Marshal.

On this Sir Roger Mauleverer of the Tower and Sir Eustace, the Left-handed, Constable of the Cowstable, attended by six



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOE WRIGHT

poursuivants carrying a line of silken yarn, measured the distance.

"How stands it?" asked the King.

"Four hundred ells, six firkins, and a demilitre," answered the Marshal.

At the mention of this distance—which corresponds in our modern English to more than 400 yards—an intense hush fell upon the attendant crowd. That a mere ball no larger than a pheasant's egg could be driven over this tremendous distance by a mere blow from a mere wand of hickory daunted the mere imagination.

The King, who well knew that the approaching contest was in reality one between Norman and Saxon and might carry with it the loss of his English crown, could ill conceal the fears that racked his evil conscience.

In vain his cup-bearer fetched him goblet after goblet of Gascony. Even the generous wine failed to enliven the mind or to dissipate the fears of the doomed monarch. A great silence had fallen upon the assembled knights and ladies, broken only by the murmured prayers of the saintly archbishop kneeling beside the sand-box. Even the stout hearts of such men as Sir Roger Bigod de Bygod and Sir

Walter de la Tenspot almost ceased to beat.

"Have done with this delay," exclaimed the King. "Let the men begin."

Hubert the Norman stepped first on to the tee. His lithe frame, knit to a nicety, with every bone and joint working to its full efficiency, was encased in a jerkin of Andalusian wool, over a haute-chausse, or plus eight, of quilted worsted. He carried in his right hand a small white ball, while in his left he bore a shaft or club of hickory, the handle bound with cordovan leather and the end, or tip, or as the Normans called it, the *houz*, fashioned in a heavy knob flattened on one side to a hexagonal diagonal.

The manner of the Norman Hubert was grave, but his firm movements and his steady eye showed no trace of apprehension as he adjusted the ball upon a small heap of sand upon the forward, or front, part of the tee.

"Canst do it?" queried the agonizing King, his hands writhing nervously on his sceptre.

"My grandsire..." began Hubert. "You said that before," cried John. "Shoot!"

Hubert bowed and paused a moment to drink a flagon of Amsterdam gin handed to him by the King's bottle-keeper, or bottle-washer. Then, standing poised on the balls of his feet at a distance of two Norman demis (26½ English inches) from the ball, he waved his club in the air as if testing its weight, while his keen eye measured the velocity of the wind.

Then, as the crowd waited in breathless silence, Hubert suddenly swung the hickory to his full reach behind his shoulder and brought it down in a magnificent sweep, striking the ball with its full impact.

There was a loud resilient "click," distinctly heard by the spectators at the second tee, while a great shout arose from all the Normans as the ball rose in the air describing a magnificent parabola in its flight.

"A Hubert! A Hubert!" they shouted. "Par le Sang de Dieu," exclaimed Sir Roger Bigod de Bygod, "some stroke!"

Meantime the ball, glistening in the sunshine and seeming to gather force in its flight, swept above the fairway and passed high in the air over the ground-posts that marked the hundred, the two hundred, and the three hundred ells, still rushing to its goal.

"By the body of St Augustine!" cried the pious Guillaume de la Hooch, "it will reach the green itself!"

"It has!" shouted Sir Roger Bigod. "Look! Look! They are seizing and lifting the flag! 'Tis on! 'Tis in! By the shirt of St Ambrose, the ball is in the can!"

And as Sir Roger spoke, a great shout went up from all the crowd, echoed even by the Saxon churls who lined the branches of the trees. "A Hole in One! A Hole in One!" cried the multitude, while an immediate rush was made to the barrels or vats of mead which lined the course, into which the exultant populace precipitated themselves head first.

For such readers as do not understand the old Norman games of Goffe, or Gouffe — sometimes

also called Guff — it is proper to explain that in the centre of each *parterre* or *terrace*, sometimes called a *green* or *pelouse* — it was customary to set a sunken receptacle or can, of the kind used by the Normans to can tomatoes, into which the ball must ultimately be driven. The virtue of Hubert's stroke was that he had driven the ball into the can (a feat for which many Normans required eight, ten or even twenty strokes) in one single blow, an achievement called in old Norman a "Hole in One."

And now the voice of the Chief Herald could be heard calling through hautboy or megaphone:

"Hole No 1: stroke No 1. Hubert of Normandy scores Hole in One. Player in hand, J Locksley, of Huntingdon, England. Clear the fairway for shot No 2."

All eyes now turned to where the splendid figure of the mysterious Locksley, the Unknown Gopher or Gopher, ascended the first tee. It was known to all that this was in reality none other, or little other, than the Saxon outlaw Robin Hood, who was whispered to be the Earl of Huntingdon and half-whispered to be, by his descent from his own grandmother, the Saxon claimant to the throne.

"How now, Locksley!" sneered the triumphant John as the Saxon appeared beside him, "canst beat that?"

Every gaze rested upon Locksley as he stood leaning upon his hickory club. His mysterious appearance at Ashby de la Zouch and the whispers as to his identity lent to him a romantic and almost fearsome interest, while his magnificent person marked him as the beau-ideal of the Saxon Gopher still seen at times even in the mimic contests of today.

His powerful form could have touched the balance at 285 pounds avoirdupois. The massive shoulders would have seemed out of proportion but for the ample sweep of the girth or waistline and the splendid breadth of the netherward or rearward hindquarters.

He was clad, like Hubert, in woollen jerkin and plus eight, and he bore on his feet the terrific spiked sandals of the Saxon, capable of inflicting a mortal blow. Locksley placed his ball, and then, grasping in his iron grip the leather-bound club-headed hickory hexagonal, he looked about him with complete sang-froid and even something of amusement.

The King's boozelier, or booze-hound, now approached Locksley and, after the courtesy of the age, offered him a horn or jolt of gin. The Saxon put it aside and to the astonishment of the crowd called only for water, contenting himself with a single bucketful.

"Drink a not!" said the scowling King.

"Not in hours of busyness," said Locksley firmly.

"And canst thou outdo Hubert's shot?" sneered John.

"I know not," said Locksley carelessly. "Hubert's shot was not half bad, but I'll see if I can touch up his ball for him in the tomato can."

"Have done with boasting!" cried the King. "Tell the archbishop to count three, and then let the fellow shoot. If he fail, my Lord Montfaucon and you, Roger Bigod de Bygod, see that he does not leave the tee alive."

The archbishop raised his

saintly face towards the skies and began to count.

"Unum!" he said, using the neuter gender of the numeral adjective in accordance with the increasing deterioration of the Latin language which had already gone far in the year AD 1215.

"Duo," said the archbishop, and then in a breathless hush, as the word "tres" quivered on the lips of the ecclesiastic, Locksley's club cleft the air in a single flash of glittering sunlight and descended upon the ball with such force that the sound of the concussion echoed back from the woods beyond the farthest green.

In a moment, the glittering trajectory of the missile could be followed high in its flight and then the curve of its rushing descent towards the green. For a moment, the silence was so intense that even the faint rustling of the grass was audible to the ear, then the crashing concussion of the driven ball against the inner tin of the tomato can showed that Locksley also had achieved a Hole in One!

But the gasp or gulp of astonishment had hardly passed when the crowd became aware that Locksley's skilled marksmanship had far surpassed the feat of a Hole in One accomplished by his opponent. His ball, driven with a power and accuracy that might well seem incredible, had struck against Hubert's ball inside the can at exactly the angle necessary to drive it out with great force and start it back in flight towards the first tee.

To the amazement of all beholders, Hubert's ball, easily distinguishable by two little dots on its lower face, was seen rushing in rapid flight to retrace its course above the fairway. So true was its path that it landed back precisely on the tee from which Hubert had shot it and came to rest on the little pile of sand on which the Norman gopher and originally placed it.

"By God!" shouted Bigod of Bygod, as Locksley picked up the ball and handed it with a bow to King John.

A wild shout that rose alike from the Saxon Thanes, the Danes, and even the Normans, rent the air, while even the ladies of the court, carried away in a burst of chivalrous admiration, tore off their silken baldrics and threw them at the feet of the victor.

Nobles and commons alike, Norman and Saxon together seized axe or bill and began beating in the heads of the casks in their eagerness to drink the health of the victor.

"A Locksley! A Locksley!" cried the multitude. For the moment, the King paused. His ear caught in the roaring plaudits of the crowd, the first note of that might unison of Saxon and Norman voices which was destined to cast him from his power.

He knew that any attempt against the life or person of the Saxon chieftain was without avail.

He turned to the venerable archbishop, who was prostrate beside the tee, eating sand.

"Fetch me the Magna Carta," he said, "and I'll sign it."

This is taken from *Hole in Fun*, an anthology of 18 golf stories, edited by Peter Haining (published by W H Allen & Co. £8.95)



Delius can take centre stage

By Mandarini

Delius, unbeaten in completed outings over fences, can extend that enviable record and gain his most valuable success to date in the £30,000 Racing Post Handicap Chase at Kempton today.

A hurdler of immense promise in the 1983-84 season when trained by Michael Dickinson, Delius did not race for almost four years subsequently because of leg problems and made his belated debut at the age of 10 in January of last year.

Despite that long absence, Delius made an impressive winning reappearance at Kempton (beating Royal Stag) and went on to gain three victories at Huntingdon (beating Lady Duff) and at Liverpool.

After his Liverpool triumph, trainer Richard Lee established a good rapport

with Delius on the schooling gallops in midweek.

Victory today would put Delius on course for the valuable Mares Cup at Liverpool and a possible clash with Desert Orchid, a race which would be worth going a long way to see.

Stratford doubt

Stratford survived a stewards' inquiry yesterday following persistent rain, but another inspection was planned for 8am as parts of the course were very wet.

Nupela already has a victory over Desert Orchid to his credit, in last season's King George, but his subsequent performances in the Gold Cup and the Hennessy suggest he was considerably flattered by the bare facts of that triumph.

Desert Orchid, the Welsh National with consum-

mate ease in December but has been reassessed for that success and has since fallen at Ascot. He would also prefer the ground a good deal softer.

Ballyhane is well handicapped and admirably consistent but may not quite have the pace to win a race as good as this while Bishops Yarn was put firmly in his place by Ten Plus at Newbury last time.

So the biggest threat to our nap may come from the progressive six-year-old Cuddy Dale, who jumped his rivals ragged at Kempton last time and seems equally at home over 2½ or three miles.

Washlow, a lively Champion Hurdle outsider, faces a tough task against the likes of Decided, Sordario and Riverhead in the Dovecot Novices' Hurdle but must succeed if he is to have a realistic chance at Cheltenham.

Nomadie Way can enhance

Dwyer frustrated over comeback

Mark Dwyer's third attempt to get back into racecourse action has been frustrated yet again.

Dwyer, who brushed his spine two weeks ago in a fall from his horse, was hoping to return to the saddle on Monday but was told by his wife that he would not be able to resume. There is little chance of him being fit for the start of the season on Monday and he will now not set himself any comeback date.

George Mernagh has been signed off for at least 48 hours after falling his shoulder in a fall at Wolverhampton on Monday.

Mernagh fell from Master Ruff at the third in the Chester Novices' Chase but did not think it too serious at the time. He continued to ride and even partnered a winner - Annie Dot

KEMPTON PARK

Selections
By Mandarini

2.05 Washlow.
2.35 Brookmont.
3.05 French Gobbin.

By Michael Seely
2.05 Washlow. 3.05 Cliffridge. 4.10 DELIUS (nap).

Going: good

2.05 DOWCOTE NOVICES HURDLE (Listed race: £2,658; 2m) (13 runners)

101	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
102	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
103	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
104	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
105	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
106	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
107	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
108	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
109	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
110	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
111	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
112	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
113	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10

4.10 RACING POST HANDICAP CHASE (Listed race: £23,218; 3m) (12 runners)

Selections
By Mandarini

2.05 Washlow.
2.35 Brookmont.
3.05 French Gobbin.

By Michael Seely
2.05 Washlow. 3.05 Cliffridge. 4.10 DELIUS (nap).

SELECTIONS

By Mandarini

2.15 Shady Road. 2.45 Ramrod. 3.15 Pommarly.
3.45 Russtown. 4.15 Three Counties. 4.45 Jayells Dream.

Brian Beel's selection: 4.15 Three Counties.

Going: good to soft

2.15 CHERINGTON NOVICES HURDLE (Listed race: £1,360; 2m) (17 runners)

1	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
2	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
3	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
4	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
5	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
6	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
7	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
8	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
9	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
10	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
11	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
12	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
13	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
14	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
15	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
16	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
17	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10

SELECTIONS

By Mandarini

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3.45 Russtown. 4.15 Three Counties. 4.45 Jayells Dream.

Brian Beel's selection: 4.15 Three Counties.

Going: good to soft

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3	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
4	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
5	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
6	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
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13	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
14	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
15	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
16	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10
17	24-12-88	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. O'Connell	5-11-10	5-11-10	5-11-10

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SELECTIONS

RUGBY UNION: BRISTOL, LEICESTER AND WASPS FORCED TO MAKE CHANGES TO THEIR NORMAL TEAMS FOR PILKINGTON QUARTER-FINALS

Injuries introduce youth and more hazard to the Cup

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Youth is given every opportunity to have its fling in the Pilkington Cup quarter-finals today, even though it makes prediction an even more hazardous task than usual. Bristol, Leicester and Wasps have all had to make amendments to their normal teams which introduce David Essien, Tony Underwood and Paddy Dunston to audiences somewhat larger than those to which they are accustomed.

Essien, aged 19, plays only his fourth senior game for Bristol against Bath, the cup favourites, on what will certainly be an oozing, slippery Recreation Ground. He plays on the wing for the injured Woodman, though his three previous games have been at full back - where he played for England colts - wing and centre.

He plays outside another teenager, Painter, while the Bristol pack includes Sharp, a prop in whom the Scottish under-21 selectors have taken a keen interest. All of which suggests that Bath, with their wealth of international experience, should progress to Monday's semi-final draw save for the fact that knockout games are not always so clearcut.

Wasps pick Cassidy straight from colts

While Steve Bates and Aadel Kardood resume acquaintance at Welford Road today, another young scrum half, Stuart Cassidy, will look on from the Wasps replacement bench, a testimony to his club's thriving youth policy (David Hands writes).

Bates and Kardood have both played second fiddle in their time. Bates to Nigel Melville as Wasps scrum half and now to Dewi Morris at England level. Kardood, understated Bates himself at Wasps last season but his studies have taken him to Leicester, where he has bypassed Nick Youngs and Steve Kenney but remains a replacement for the Combined English Students against the French next week.

Now Cassidy, 19 today, awaits his chance. Such is Wasps's confidence in his ability that he has been picked out of the club's colts team for today's

cup squad after an outstanding match against London Welsh last week.

Cassidy joined Wasps from Leicester at the start of this season and has helped the colts to a run of victories marked only by defeat against Ranelagh Park and a drawn match with Worcester. That he includes scores against Leicester earlier this month and, should Cassidy need any encouragement about what is possible, the sight of Paddy Dunston prepping for the club's senior side should be sufficient.

Dunston, aged 20, is another product of the colts system and is now pressing for a place in England's first under-21 team, which will play Romania in May. He has the reputation of being as fast as some of Wasps's three-quarters though the club will be more than happy if he can make light of the absence of the injured Jeff Probyn.

With due respect to Oxford and Hereford, this is Bath's first "proper" cup match and it comes after the loss last week to Gloucester of their marvellous unbeaten record for the season. That in itself will make Bath more determined and Barnes, their captain and one of those required tomorrow to train with the England squad at Twickenham, cheerfully admits: "Bristol are one of the four or five teams who can beat us if we are not performing at our best."

Bath trained on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Bristol concentrated their efforts on Wednesday and Thursday. "Put your money on Bristol," a club official advised yesterday, though it sounded almost like a threat.

Leicester, who play Wasps, have substituted one Underwood for another: Rory, the England wing, hurt a knee in the closing minutes of last week's game against Ireland and withdrew on Thursday night, his younger brother Tony - should he survive treatment for a hamstring twinge - coming in to play before an anticipated crowd of some 9,000.

Wakefield, the sole remaining northern representative, are the romantic outsiders. Gloucester, against whom they have played only once (they lost 18-3 in 1932), are the pragmatic realists of the cup, which has brought them three finals and two outright wins. They go in as second favourites and it is hard to see the Yorkshiremen upsetting the odds.



Fraterask: Tony Underwood stands in for his brother, Rory

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

Pilkington Cup

Bath v Bristol

Trevaskis plays on the wing for Bath because Sages is injured; Palmer, a centre, stands by in case Gussell's injured ankle does not respond to treatment.

Harlequins v Nottingham Harlequins play David Thresher at lock and have Thompson available once more at stand-off. Gray and Hindmarsh form Nottingham's second row with Jones and Harley paired at centre.

Leicester v Wasps Richards and Wells return to the Leicester back row and Dodge has recovered from a muscle strain. Rigby plays only his second senior game of the year for Wasps, who will miss Ellison, at No. 8.

Wakefield v Gloucester Adamson has a pulled thigh muscle and is doubtful for Wakefield, who will call on Bowser at full back if required. Gloucester welcome back Teague, at No. 8, and Madden at centre.

Schweppes Welsh Cup

Llanelli v Bridgend

Llanelli field their five present internationals and a close eye will be kept on Stephens, at stand-off. Bridgend are without Bryant and Edwards in the pack; Connolly will prop, Cooper will play flanker.

Llanharan v Cardiff Llanharan are unchanged from the XV which beat South Wales Police in the last round, but Cardiff have Young and Phillips available in the front row and Slegood restored to health in the centre.

The Newbridge v Aberllyrry Llanharan Wanderers v Heath matches have been postponed.

Shortland called

Stephen Shortland, the Leeds Polytechnic lock, has replaced Tim Swan, who is suffering from glandular fever, in the Combined English Students team to play French Students at Ilford Road, Oxford, on March 3. Shortland's place on their replacements bench is taken by Matthew Greenwood.

Kelso, the defending McEwan's Scottish League champions, meet Boroughmair at Meggaid today in what most observers see as the title deciding match.

Given their superior points difference over the joint leaders, Hawick, victory for Kelso, who have Glasgow High/Kelvin side still to play, would virtually assure them of the McEwan's championship title. But Boroughmair are only two points behind and could still capitalize on any mistakes by the two leaders.

Kelso will be at full strength today but even so will be mindful that their opponents inflicted a rare defeat on Hawick at Mansfield Park and in the process played some delightfully open and effective rugby. Much of that has hinged on their Scotland centre, Sean Lineen, and Murry Walker who came on as a substitute for his colleague, Brian Edwards, in last Saturday's B International against France at Melrose.

Hall's departure and weather puts dampener on ties

By David Hands

In Wales this season, it never rains but it pours - literally. Mike Hall, arguably the most successful back during a lamentable international season, has left Bridgend on the eve of today's Schweppes Welsh Cup quarter-finals and the weather has washed out the tie between Newbridge and Aberllyrry and Glamorgan Wanderers and Neath. In addition there will be a pitch inspection this morning at Llanharan (10.30).

Hall, aged 23, and a second-year graduate at Cambridge, has criss-crossed the country like a yo-yo for national squad sessions and club calls this season. But Bridgend chose not to select him for today's cup game at Llanelli in order to remain loyal to those who can train and play regularly for the club, and Hall seems likely to move to Cardiff where he hopes to work after finishing at university.

In essence the split comes because of the intolerable demands made on amateur players. Hall has tried to give his club the time compatible with his studies which, obviously, cannot be as great as those players who live locally to Bridgend.

John Devereux and John Apsey will play in midfield against the cup holders and Hall will depend on games for Cam bridge (against the Anti-Assassins next week) and the Barbarians (in the Mobbs Memorial match) to stay sharp assuming Wales require him against England on March 18.

Hall's departure is unlikely to

improve club morale against the most consistent team in the country but Cardiff, in contrast, could do with some good news in a season wracked by injuries. The draw has taken them to Llanharan, the village club who are the only juniors left in either the English or the Welsh knock-out competitions. As such, Llanharan will be willed on by absent enthusiasts as well as their own well-to-do partisans. "Cardiff will be up against the whole village when they arrive so that has got to be worth a few points to us," Trevor Worgan, the Llanharan back-row man who used to play for Cardiff, said. However, Cardiff, five times winners of the cup, might have the experience of their strong international contingent to draw upon and were encouraged to find Andrew Booth, the Neath scrum half, training with them this week. He may play against Bristol next week.

Richard Moriarty, Swansea's captain, requires treatment for a back injury and will miss the first meeting between his club and Saracens at Southgate. The London club hopes that Dean Ryan, the England B player who broke his arm in November, will make his comeback in one of the lower sides.

The Luddites scheduled first meeting with Loughborough Students at Ashby Road next Wednesday has been cancelled, by mutual agreement, because of the students' heavy representative commitments.

Brian Richardson, who should ensure a good supply of ball at the lineout.

Elsewhere in the first division, Harlequins should have little difficulty in beating Walsley and likewise Hawick against Stewart's-Melville. At Schrick, Glasgow Academicals will be fighting to avoid relegation while at Riverside, Farnham and Monks will be engaged in a middle of the table contest.

Two games in Dublin, St Mary's College against Lansdowne and Blackrock College in opposition to Monks, dominate the programme in Ireland today. A win for St Mary's will win them Section A of the Leinster Senior League title, enabling them to pip Old Wesley by a point. Blackrock College and Monks have both gained promotion to Section A and meet today in a play-off for the B Section pennant.

CRICKET

Pakistan recover with record stand

From Omar Ahmed Auckland

It was a happy hunting day for Pakistan in the decisive third and final Test against New Zealand at Eden Park in Auckland. By stumps on the first day they had piled up a respectable 289 for the loss of only two wickets.

Pakistan had recovered from the humiliation of 44 for 2 after Imran Khan had won the toss, thanks mainly to two of their century makers of the second Test at Wellington. Saad and Shoaib Mohammad whose unbroken stand of 245, was a record for Pakistan against New Zealand. It was an improvement on their 220 for the third wicket in the second Test.

New Zealand, who had already left out their three seamers, Swales, Morrison and Watson from the original 15, dropped the all rounder, Dipak Patel, as well from the final 12 to accommodate Greatbatch.

For Pakistan, winning the toss was a bonus. Once over the fitters of the early dismissals of their seamers, Mudassar Nazar and Rizwan-Uz-Zaman, they were able to negotiate admirably a limited bowling attack consisting of two pacemen, Hadjee and Chaudhry, and two spinners, Bracewell and Boock.

It was only in the pre-lunch session that New Zealand were able to pick up two wickets but for the rest of the day it was an ordeal. Mudassar provided Hadjee with his 390th Test wicket when with only 10 on the board for Pakistan he was adjudged leg-before. Rizwan was then caught in the first slip by Crowe in Boock's sixth over.

Mudassar and Shoaib settled in to punish the Kiwis with well timed drives and cuts. From 80 for two at lunch they added 106 runs in the second session and 103 between tea and stumps. Shoaib, 43 at lunch, reached his half century after the resumption. Mudassar's 50 included five fours and two sixes. The 100 partnership came in only 82 minutes.

Mudassar, the first to his century in 175 minutes had hit nine fours and three sixes. Shoaib's third Test century, which contained 17 fours, soon followed. It had taken him 291 minutes and 214 deliveries.

PAKISTAN First innings
Mudassar Nazar 100, Shoaib Mohammad 100, Imran Khan 44, Saad Mohammad 24, Dipak Patel 10, Greatbatch 10, Bracewell 10, Boock 10.
Total (2 wickets) 289
Second innings
Imran Khan 44, Saad Mohammad 24, Dipak Patel 10, Greatbatch 10, Bracewell 10, Boock 10.
Total (10 wickets) 100
FALL OF WICKETS 1-10, 2-44, 3-100, 4-100, 5-100, 6-100, 7-100, 8-100, 9-100, 10-100.
BOWLING: Hadjee 22-0-0-1 (1 not out), Chaudhry 22-0-0-1 (1 not out), Bracewell 22-0-0-1 (1 not out), Boock 22-0-0-1 (1 not out).

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Graham John Stretch (Arthur Young), Reading

Fifth Place in the Order of Merit (equal) and the William G Frazer Prize
Penelope Sarah Ann Jones (Deloitte Haskins & Sells), Liverpool

Fifth Place in the Order of Merit (equal) and the Tattersall-Walker Prize (equal)
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Mark Robert Wildi (Coopers & Lybrand), London

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Order of Merit and Prizes

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

2. Next, it is important to gather relevant information and data. This can be done through research, consultation with experts, or by analyzing existing data sets.

3. Once the information is gathered, the next step is to analyze it. This involves identifying patterns, trends, and relationships that can help in understanding the problem.

4. After analysis, the next step is to develop a solution or plan. This involves identifying the most effective approach to solve the problem, taking into account the available resources and constraints.

5. Finally, the solution is implemented and the results are evaluated. This involves monitoring the progress of the implementation and making adjustments as needed to ensure that the problem is solved effectively.

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ACCOUNTANCY

The real prizes to the brightest

Publication this morning of the results of the Institute of Chartered Accountants' PEII examinations has no doubt triggered scenes of modest merrymaking wherever two or more trainee accountants are gathered together. For those who worked diligently last year the time has come for their just rewards.

Quite apart from any examination celebrations, however, it sometimes seems that the chartered accountancy profession in general has embarked on a non-stop party to which more and more people are being invited. Year-by-year the profession grows bigger. And each autumn it sucks in a larger proportion of the country's young talent.

Back in September, for example, there was a considerable stir when PwC Marwick McLintock, the world's biggest firm of accountants, made history by recruiting for the first time 1,000 graduate trainees. On this year's recruitment round, PwC's target will be even greater. Indeed, with more than 10 per cent of all new graduates now going into accountancy, the only question is how the supply of the new entrants can be met: this apparently insatiable demand — especially once the effects of the demographic downturn starts to bite in the early 1990s.

Most of those who receive good news today are destined in all likelihood for a comfortable — if hard-working — future. Whether or not they stay in public practice, their qualifications will be worth their weight in Amex Gold Cards. Part of the reason is that a chartered

Edward Fennell looks at the increasing demand for young graduates and the strong prospects for professionals



accountancy qualification has become virtually the UK's equivalent of an American MBA — a reliable passport to a business career.

Changes taking place in the syllabus of the professional examinations will help strengthen chartered accountants' credentials as business managers and all-round financial experts.

The result is that the range of choice ahead for young accountants is wide. It also means that within a year or so those who are successful today will need to ask themselves some fundamental questions.

Once qualified, will they stay with their present firm? Will they join one of the clients with whom they have worked recently? Or will they perhaps transfer to a management-consultancy operation?

For some newly qualified accountants who have little experience other than a degree course and accountancy training,

that may be a difficult decision because they lack a wider understanding of the business world. Recent moves by Arthur Andersen and Arthur Young, however, mean that a small number of older people are being brought into the profession who may be in a position to take a more considered view.

Said Alan Cull, a principal manager involved with AY Recruitment: "Over the last five years, peoples' attitudes have certainly changed, and we now look very positively at such older applicants. What they bring is a little extra maturity which adds something to the peer groups. What is more, they normally do extremely well."

Currently AY is taking three to four older entrants each year. The more experience they have, the better they are liked. (The firm was recently joined by a qualified physiotherapist, aged 30, who had decided to change career entirely

and retrain as an accountant). Equally significant is a scheme for older entrants run by Arthur Andersen. For the second year running, Andersen has been advertising for experienced graduates to come and join its Financial and Business Services (FBS) Group.

The notable feature of this is that, unlike the AY scheme, it is targeted on attracting people who are destined for management consultancy-type jobs, albeit within the accountancy practice.

Andersen's Charles Osborne explained: "The FBS Group is a kind of management-consultancy outfit within the accountancy practice. We have people in six 'product lines', ranging from general strategic planning through to purchasing and sales marketing. "We want to recruit people into these

functions who have had two or three years of focused experience — project management, for example — and therefore come in with different perceptions from those straight out of higher education." What makes this different from most other forms of management-consultancy training is that there is an opportunity to gain the chartered accountancy qualification as well as the entrée into consultancy.

About half the people coming through on the scheme are taking up the opportunity and showing a motivation and determination which surpasses that of their younger colleagues who have come in by the more conventional route. It is almost as if they have a sense of burning urgency to catch up on those three or more years which they have spent elsewhere.

The truth is, of course, that their breadth of experience is probably their

most useful asset. They could even be described as a useful antidote to an overdose of academic naivety among young colleagues; they are clearly a breath of fresh air to a profession that spends so much of its time on advising others about the conduct of their business. The result is that Andersen considers the innovation is paying off exceptionally well. Last year the advertising campaign attracted a vast number of responses and this year the same has occurred.

In particular, it has grabbed the attention of people coming off MBA programmes who want to take advantage of the opportunities which a big firm of accountants offers.

The curious postscript to this story is that though the two Arthurs are united in their appreciation of older clients, they use entirely different methods of selecting them.

At Arthur Young they swear by a selection and assessment system that relies heavily on numeracy, literacy and spatial tests. Unless you pass the test, you will have no chance.

By contrast at Arthur Andersen they make no use whatsoever of such psychometric methods. Instead, they rely on extensive and time-consuming interviews which evaluate the "whole person".

It all goes to show, I suppose, that despite the popular myths, there is no simple recipe for what makes an accountant. Let's just say that they are pretty bright people — especially the ones who got their results today.

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OUTDOOR LEISURE

Messing about on the Thames

JULIAN HERBERT

The decline of dinghy sailing since the Sixties, and expanding winter sailing opportunities elsewhere, have hit an old Thames club, John Young reports

It is, in these climatically contradictory times, a gloriously sunny winter afternoon. The Thames at high water swells peacefully under a flawless blue sky, and the riverside pubs, freed from restrictions on Sunday opening hours, spill their customers out to crowd the benches and walls overlooking the river.

In his eye outside the London Corinthian Sailing Club on Upper Mall, Hammersmith, the race officer hoists a string of pennants and blows a whistle to signal the first dinghy across the finishing line. The cheerful informality of the occasion contrasts with the formal elegance of the 18th-century clubhouse, which the unknown visitor might associate with all the traditional stuffiness of yachting: in white caps and reefed jackets playing at being toy-town aristocrats.

A plaque informs passers-by that the club was founded in 1894 to encourage "the building and racing of sailing boats". But any grandiose pretensions have long since vanished. It is nowadays a convivial and friendly meeting place for people who want to spend a healthy and relaxing couple of hours on the river, and enjoy a pint or two afterwards, for only a fraction of the cost of belonging to a smart suburban golf club.

This is partly because dinghy sailing has suffered a marked decline in popularity since its heyday in the 1960s. Even if the Corinthian and its sister club, Ranelagh, a mile or two downriver at Putney, wanted to remain exclusive, they could no longer afford to do so.

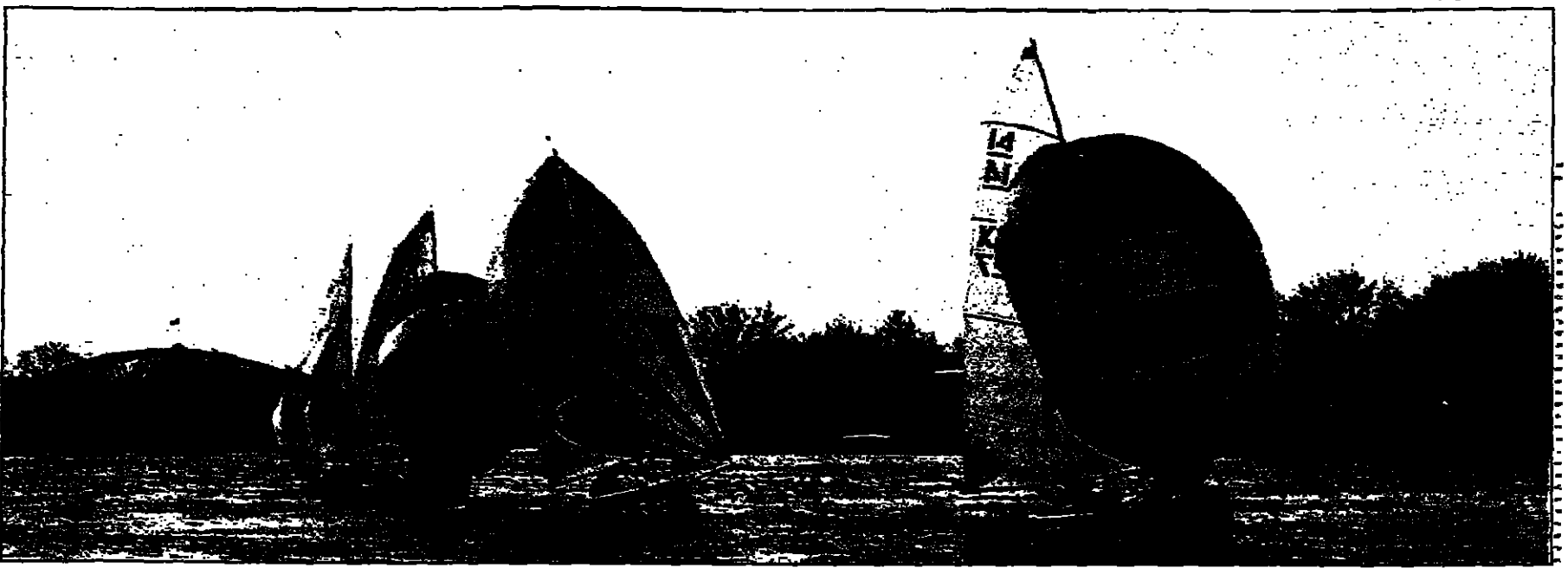
The invention of the modern dinghy is usually attributed to the remarkable Uffa Fox, former sail-

ing companion of the Duke of Edinburgh, and for many years easily the best known figure in the sport. In 1927 he designed and built the famous International 14, Avenger, which in a fresh breeze accelerated by planing over the surface of the water instead of ploughing through it.

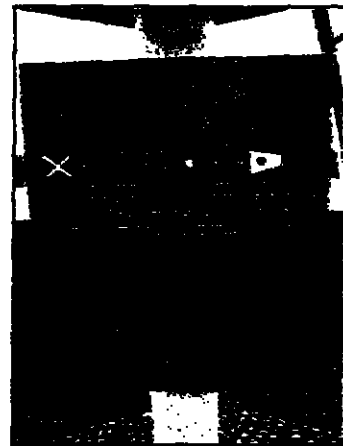
But it was not until after the Second World War, with increasing affluence and cheaper vessels such as the Mirror and Enterprise, that the sport became accessible to almost everyone. To its devotees, the International 14 was still the "queen of dinghies", nowhere more so than at the London Corinthian, which became the winter meeting place for many of the top sailors in Britain. Its earlier home was a ramshackle, but much loved, building near Hammersmith Bridge, and its commodore the late Sir Alan Herbert.

The club, numbering writers and artists among its members, was one of the joys of Herbert's life. His portrait by Ruskin Spear hangs on the stairway of the present building, which is said to have been built originally for Queen Anne's cook. At one time it was a rowing centre for "nipples", the famous waitresses from Lyons corner shops, and in 1963 was offered to the Corinthian on a 21-year lease for £260 a year.

It would be misleading to suggest that the club has since fallen on hard times, but clearly things are not what they were. On a good day there may be up to 25 boats out racing. Hugh Kemlo, who with his wife, Miranda, has been sailing on Hammersmith Reach for the last 30 years, attributes the decline partly to the boom in board-sailing, which is seen by many young people as more *macho* and challenging.



Blue sails in the sunlight: Uffa Fox is credited with inventing the modern dinghy in 1927 with the International 14, but it was only after the war that sailing became accessible to all



Fighting to stay afloat: (from left) Sally Dixon, the Corinthian's first lady commodore; the club board; and the 18th-century clubhouse, subject of a battle with Hammersmith Council

More people can afford to cruise offshore or keep their boats abroad, confining their sailing to annual Mediterranean holidays. Still more can and do travel further at weekends, and advanced all-weather clothing has prolonged the season, so that many coastal clubs, which used to close between October and April, now stage "frostbite" meetings throughout the winter. The Thames clubs have faced competition from inland lakes, such as the Queen Mary and Queen

Mother reservoirs on the western fringes of London, where the hours are not limited by the tides. But there is, or ought to be, still an attraction in the sheer convenience of being able to sail so close to the heart of London. Bill Simpson, a former Corinthian commodore, is still enthusiastic enough at the age of 70 to commute to Hammersmith at weekends with his wife, Elaine, and relishes the memory of a day so cold that their Enterprise was encased in a coating of ice.

There are several husband-and-wife teams in the Corinthian, and indeed there is a woman commodore, the first in the club's history. Sally Dixon, a vivacious Glaswegian, learnt to sail on the Clyde and now teaches at a school in Marylebone. Most of her three-year term has been spent in a struggle with Labour-controlled Hammersmith Council, which owns the clubhouse and which, having doubtless convinced itself that yachtsmen were rich and yachting

an elitist sport, sought to increase its annual rent to £23,000. After a four-day hearing in the county court a new 14-year lease was agreed at £3,500 a year. "Before that I really did think that we would have to close down," she says. "We are now just beginning to think that we have a future. We are redecorating the clubhouse, and we have bought a new pontoon." But she admits that the club badly needs a blood infusion. It has around 300 members and

could accommodate three times as many. Applications from young people are particularly welcome: at an annual subscription of only £50, and club boats available for hire at £1 a time, the cost is certainly no hindrance, although, with its strong tides and unpredictable winds, the Thames is perhaps not ideal for beginners. Dixon's term of office is coming to an end and, as she presents the day's trophies, there is a suspicion of a catch in her voice: "It's been a wonderful day. Just idyllic."

How to fly with both feet on the ground

JOHN ROGERS

More people are discovering the joys of kite flying, says Jane Cryer

Kite flying is enjoyed by anybody who can find enough space and wind. Its popularity has soared as people discover that their childhood games provide important exercise, and an antidote to the stresses of modern living.

Andy King, co-owner of Covent Garden's Kite Store, says rather more men than women are buying kites, although there is no average customer: "Really, you can't stereotype it. We've had dustbin men and company directors, and any age from five-year-olds to the over-sixties."

Kite flying can be more than just running around Parliament Hill in north London on a Sunday afternoon. "It's important to distinguish between recreational flyers, hobbyists and competitors," King says. "The recreational flyer will really only do it at the weekend, possibly only on a Sunday. The hobbyist will have probably had a shot at making his or her own kite, and will fly at least once a week. And competitors are people like me who can never find enough hours in the day to fly."

Kite-flying has a history spanning 25 centuries, beginning in China where kites were used as primitive telegraphs to send urgent messages. They have enjoyed intermittent popularity in this country, with a particular vogue in the 18th century among dandies, who saw it as "a most elegant and refreshing pursuit".

Many towns and cities have kite societies, each one affiliated to the Kite Society of Great Britain, which publishes a monthly newsletter. At the moment the society is engaged in promoting a new kind of competition, known as the *cognoscere* or STACK, but known to the rest of us as incredible stunts.

Festivals are held regularly throughout the spring and summer, the largest in Bristol towards the end of August. The first is the Blackheath Easter festival, an informal, low-key affair, which makes it



Master craftsman: shop owner Andy King says there is no such thing as an average customer



Getting under sail: kite flying, the enthusiasts say, is "a good way to blow the cobwebs away"

a good starting point for anyone who is thinking of taking the kite a little more seriously. Competitions and demonstrations, some for children, are the mainstay of the festivals; fighting kites, or rokkaku, are an exciting demonstration of the flyer's skill. Typical of today's kite flyers are the Woodleigh family from Blackheath. Jo Woodleigh was a keen dancer before Hannah came along. She now finds kite flying beneficial in more ways than one: "Just thinking about an hour's aerobics class makes

me exhausted. But taking Hannah up to the heath gives me the fresh air and exercise that I need on a level that I can cope with." Her husband Ben, a chartered accountant, enjoys the rare opportunity to get some exercise in the company of his family: "Having a specific time with Hannah means I get away from work completely and can concentrate on her. The kite is a wonderful way of blowing away the cobwebs." The cost of buying a kite varies from £1.99 to more than £500 for a hand-crafted, custom-made one. In addition to toyshops and specialist

retailers, there is a thriving mail order business run by Peter Walters at Malvern Kites. Like all manufacturers, Walters is an enthusiast and very willing to answer any queries that the beginner may have. If you prefer to approach the kite through reading about it first, the most comprehensive survey is published by Penguin, entitled *The Penguin Book of Kites* (£8.95); other literature on kites tends to be on how to build your own, which can be a little daunting for the beginner.

THE SUNDAY TIMES WHO POLLUTES BRITAIN'S RIVERS?



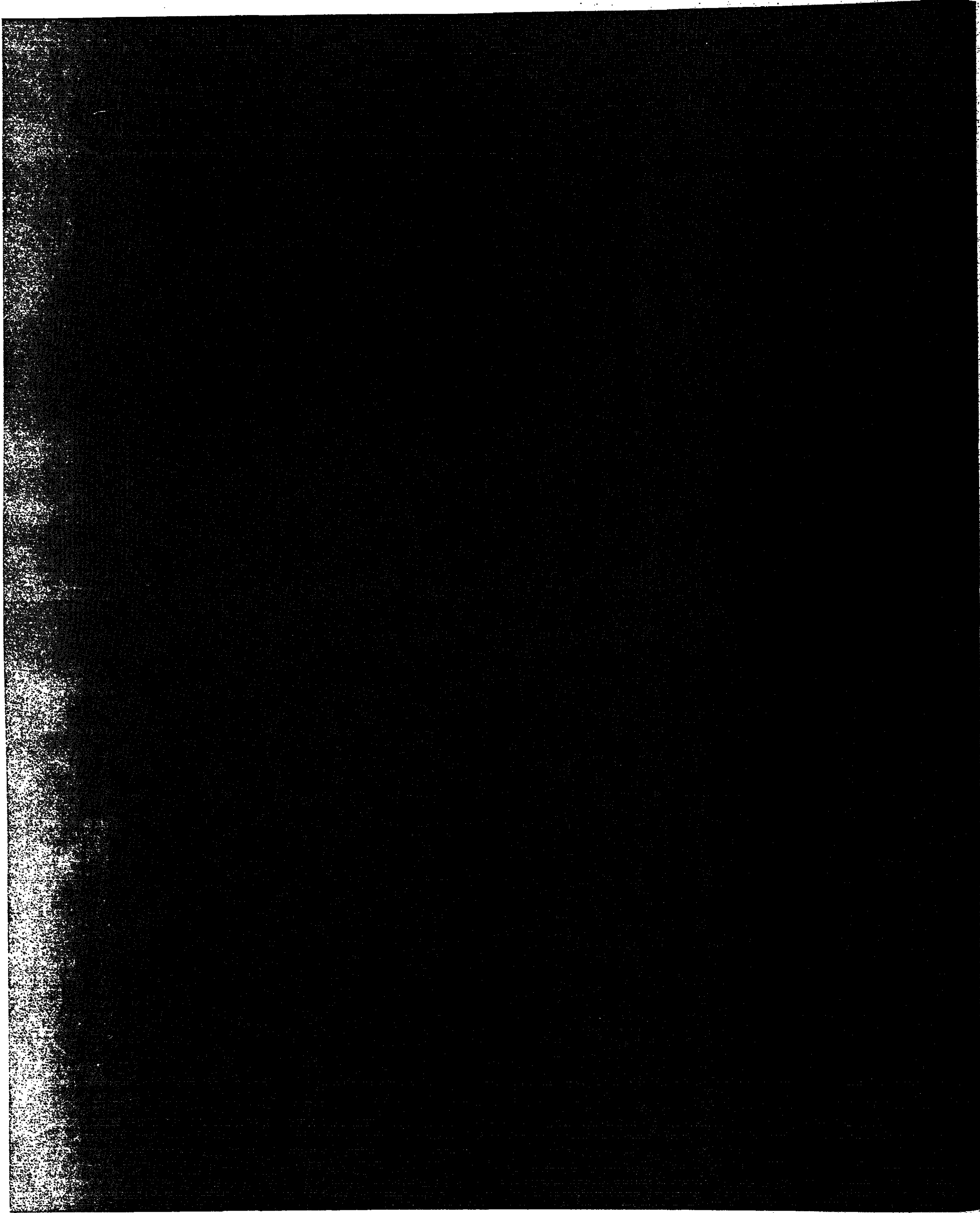
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